Education in Alberta:

SOME MAJOR SOCIETAL TRENDS

Alberta

Education in Alberta:

Some Major Societal Trends

Alberta Education
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LEGEND

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The following abbreviations are used in this document:

AADAC	Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission
ABS	Alberta Bureau of Statistics
ACCESS	Alberta Education Communications Corporation
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BC	British Columbia
NZ	New Zealand

Preface

In this document, major societal trends in the areas of Demographics, Family and Society, Alberta's Youth, Labour Force, Advances in Science and Technology and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are presented. The companion document, *Education in Alberta: Some Major Educational Trends*, presents trends in the areas of Student Enrollment, Student Programs/ Courses, Student Achievement, Teachers, Educational Finance, Public Policy Changes, and Public Opinion.

Both documents provide timely planning information for educators. The environment in which education operates is changing rapidly, and information about major environmental changes and educational developments is an important tool for planning and decision making.

Both documents have been formatted to encourage users to note, in the course of planning, the potential implications a particular trend or trends may have on his or her operation. We realize that there will be different implications for different users.

In the future, we will be contacting all recipients of these documents to find out whether the information has been of use in planning for the future. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, inquiries about assistance in interpreting these trends, or suggestions for improving future editions please contact:

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1. Demographics

HIGHLIGHTS

- Slower population growth due to declining birth rates and lower level of fertility.
- School- age population will continue to grow while pre-school age population will decline.
- Increase in the number of elderly people.
- Reduction in mortality resulting in rapid rise in life expectancy.
- Increased urbanization.
- International Immigration becoming a more important component of population growth.
- Increase in the multicultural nature of population (ethnic diversity/linguistic diversity).

1.1 Population Growth

TRENDS

There are slightly more males than females in the total Alberta population.
Males made up 50.4% (1,192,045), and females 49.6% (1,173,785) of the population in 1986.

Although Alberta's population has more than doubled between 1956 (1.1 million) and 1986 (2.4 million), the rate of growth has varied.
From an average annual growth rate of about 3% per year in the 1950s, the annual rate of increase fell gradually to 2% in the 1960s, but rose to more than 4% during the late 1970s. It has fallen to slightly over 1% in the early 1980s.

In recent years, although Alberta's population continued to increase, it has been growing at a slower rate. This slower growth is expected to continue.
Alberta's population of 2,365,825 in June 1986 represents an increase of 128,100 persons, or 5.7% from 1981, or an annual average rate of 1.1%. The 5.7% growth rate is significantly lower than the growth rate of 21.7% registered during the 1976-1981 census period.

Declining birth and fertility rates have contributed to the continued slower population growth. As well, periods of slow growth have been associated with economic recessions.
The moderate growth rates in Alberta have been primarily due to a much higher than average rate of natural increase and immigration. But, it was during the economic boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s when much growth occurred. Since 1982, Alberta has experienced a significant net outflow through interprovincial migration as its economic activity has changed.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.1a
Alberta Population By Gender

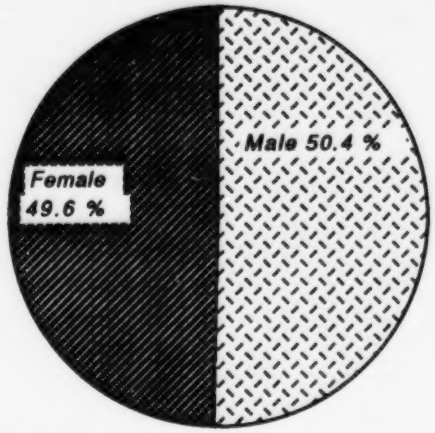


Figure 1.1b
Alberta Population, 1956-1986

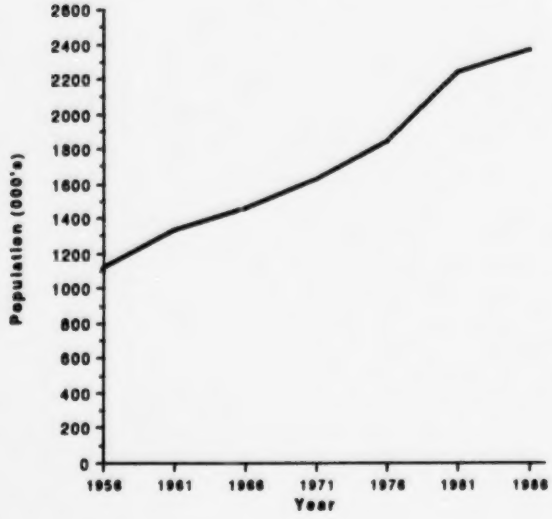
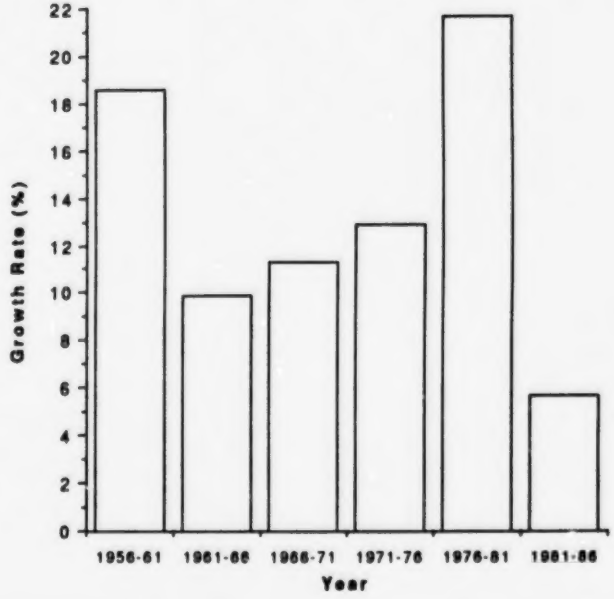


Figure 1.1c
Percentage Change of Alberta Population,
Intercensal Periods, 1956-1986



Sources: Statistics Canada, *1956, 1962, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada*

1.2 Pre-School (0-4 Years) and School-Age (5-19 Years) Population

TRENDS

The percentage of young persons aged 0-19 years in the total Alberta population is decreasing. This decrease is expected to continue in the next century.
Between 1951 and 1986, the percentage of children aged 0-19 decreased from 38.4% to 31.4% of Alberta's total population. However, in absolute numbers, the population of this age group more than doubled during this period. The percentage of the 0-19 age group is expected to decline from the 1986 figure of 31.4% to 23.2% in the medium growth series by 2016. However, in absolute numbers, the 0-19 year groups will continue to grow moderately, from 743,520 in 1986 to 758,700 in 2016. During Alberta Education's planning period from 1988 to 1994, the 0-19 year group will increase from 745,500 to 770,200 or 3.3%.

Since 1951, pre-schoolers (aged 0-4) as a proportion of the population has declined.
The percentage of children aged 0-4 declined from 12.4% in 1951 to 8.7% of Alberta's total population in 1986. It will further decline to 5.7% by 2016. The actual number of children 0-4 is expected to decline slightly to 2006 and then begin to increase through 2016. This attenuated decline is due to the fact that the current pre-schoolers are children whose parents are part of the large "baby-boom" cohorts, a substantial number of whom have postponed childbearing.

There is a decline in the school-age population (5-19) as a proportion of the total population.
Between 1951 and 1986, the 5-19 age group declined from 26.0% to 22.8% of the Alberta's total population. In 1981, 25.4% of Albertans were of school-age. In 1986, 22.8% were in this age group, a drop of 3%. The proportion of the 5-19 age group is expected to decline further to 17.4 % by 2016. The 5-19 age population group will, however, in absolute numbers, increase from 538,450 in 1986 to 606,500 in 2001, but begin a slow decline through 2016.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.2a
Pre-School Age Population (0-4 Years), as a Percentage of the Total Population, Alberta, 1981-2016

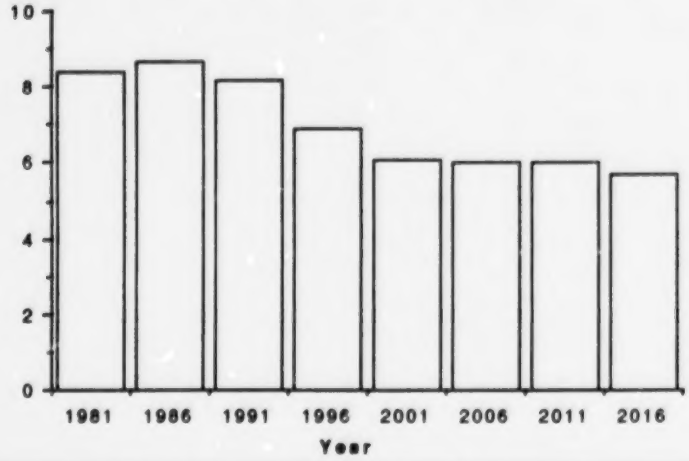


Figure 1.2b
School Age Population (5-19 Years), as a Percentage of the Total Population, Alberta, 1981-2016.

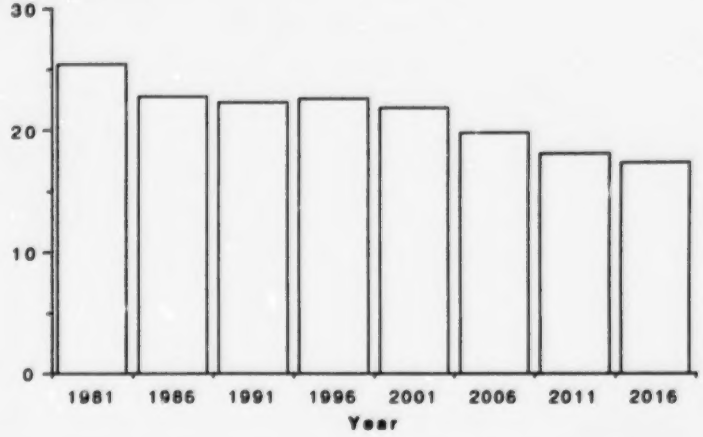
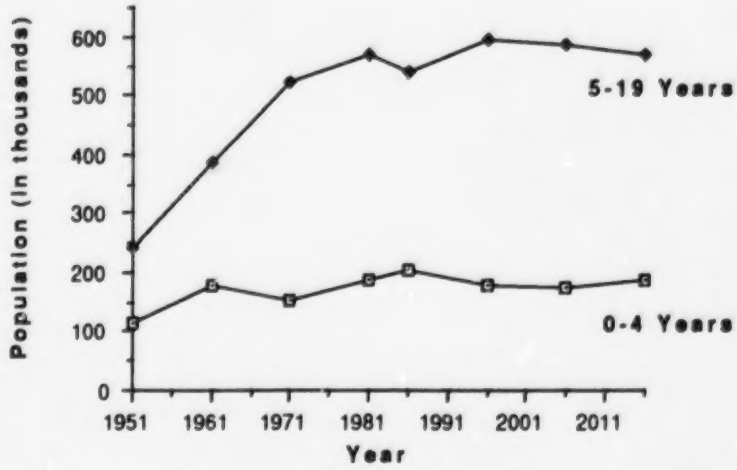


Figure 1.2c
Alberta's 0-4 and 5-14 Population Groups, 1951-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada, *1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada;*
Alberta Bureau of Statistics, *Population Projections, Alberta, 1987-2016*

1.2.1 Non School-Age Adult Population

TRENDS

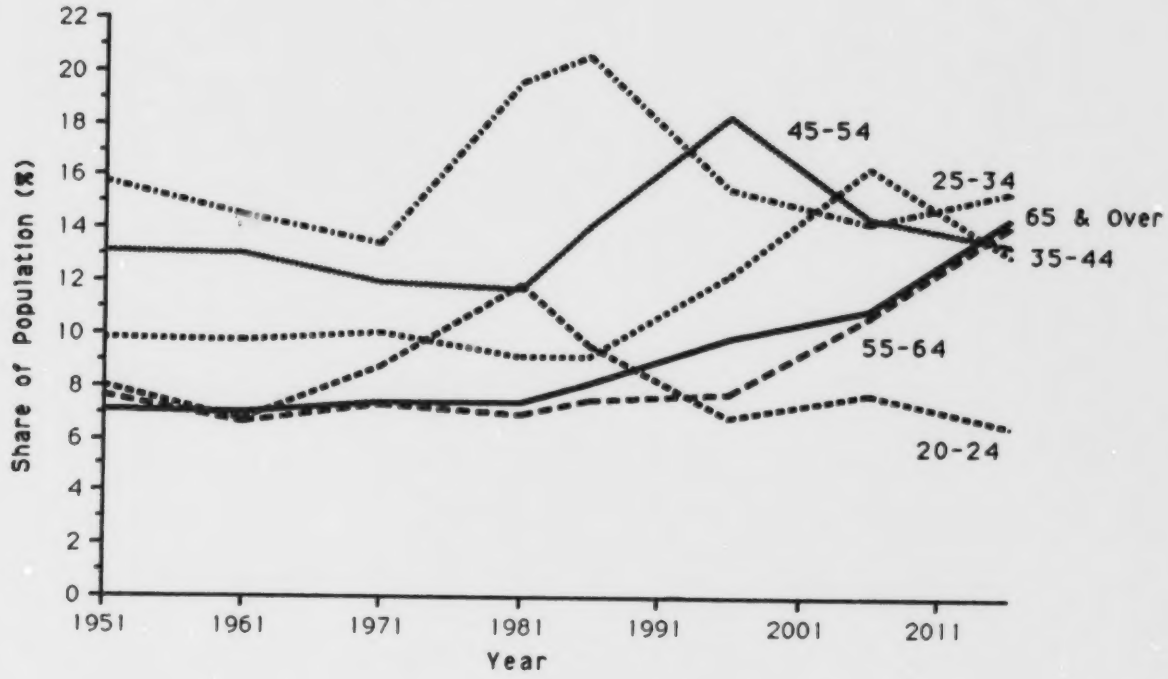
After showing fluctuating rates in the last 35 years, other young adult sectors of the population are projected to decline.
From 8% in 1951, the 20-24 age group declined to 6.7% in 1961, but then increased steadily to 11.8% in 1981 as a proportion of Alberta's total population, and declined again to 9.5% in 1986. It is projected to decline further by the year 2016 to 6.7% of the total population. The 25-34 age cohort increased its share of the total population from 15.8% in 1951 to 20.5% in 1986, but is also projected to decline to 15.4% by 2016. On the whole, this will result in a decrease in the proportion of the population aged 20-34 from 30% to 21.9% between 1986 and 2016.

At the other end of the age structure, the 35 and over age groups are expected to continue to grow. The growth in population will be quite rapid for the 55 and over age groups during the next two decades.
Between 1951 and 1986, the 35-44 age group increased its share of the population from 13.1% to 14.0%. It is expected to continue to grow to 18.2% in 1996, but decline to 13.4% by 2016. The 45-54 age group showed virtually no change between 1951 and 1986, but is expected to grow from 9.1% in 1986 to 16.3% in 2006, and decline to 13.0 % by 2016.

The 55-64 and 65 and over age groups showed no substantial growth between 1951 and 1986. But both groups are projected to increase their share of the total population during the next two decades. For the 1986-2016 period, the 55-64 age group will increase steadily from 7.4% to 14.1%. The 65 and over will increase from 8.1% to 14.4%. In general, 28.5% of Alberta's population will be 55 and over by the year 2016, as compared to 15.5% in 1986.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.2.1
Age Composition of the Adult Population by Six Age Groups, Alberta, 1951-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 Census of Canada; Alberta Bureau of Statistics, Population Projections, Alberta, 1987-2016

1.2.2 Aging Population

TRENDS

Shifts in the age structure of the Alberta population have led to an increase in the number of elderly people. The population aging trend is expected to increase in the decades ahead because of the aging baby boom generation and the declining proportion of young people.
The population aged 65 and over has been the fastest-growing age group in Alberta in the 1980s. From 1981 to 1986, the number of Albertans aged 65 and over increased by 17%, a growth rate almost three times that of the population as a whole (5.7%). As a result of the growth, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over increased from 7.3% in 1981 to 8.1% in 1986, and is expected to increase steadily to 14.1% by 2016.

Even more impressive has been the increase in the 75+ subgroup.
In 1986, there were 74, 815 people at least 75 years, an increase of 19% since 1981. During this period, the proportion of the population aged 75 and over rose from 2.8% to 3.2%. By the year 2016, its share of the population will increase to 5.9%.

Because of the increase in longevity of women, the majority of the elderly population in Alberta is composed of women.
In 1986, there were 84,140 men (44.0%) and 107,190 women (56.0%) 65 years of age and older in Alberta.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.2.2a
Population 65 Years and Over, As a Percentage of the Total Population, Alberta, 1981-2016

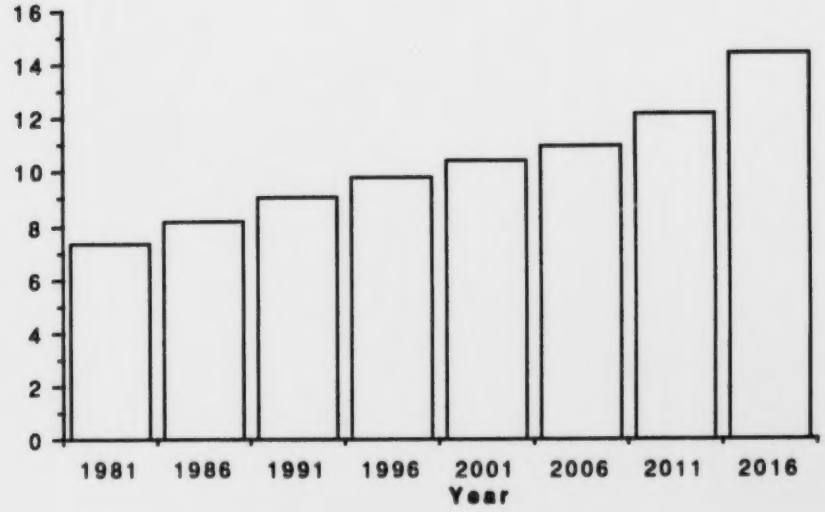
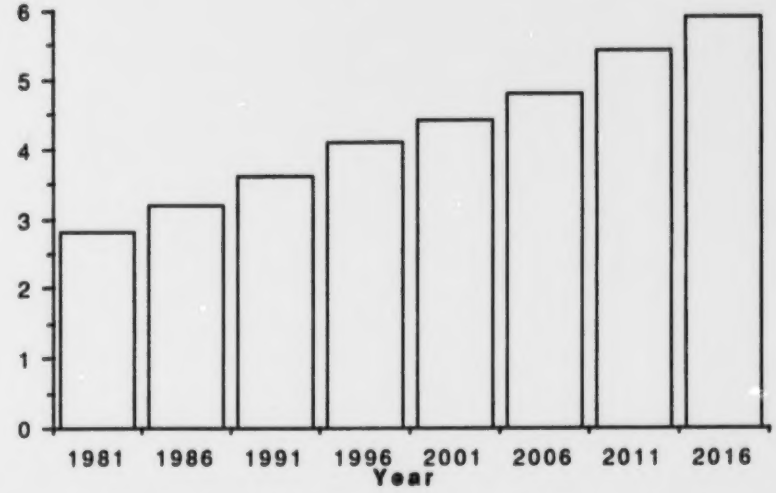


Figure 1.2.2b
Population 75 Years and Over, As a Percentage of the Total Population, Alberta, 1981-2016



Sources: Statistics Canada, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada;
Alberta Bureau of Statistics, Population Projections, Alberta, 1987-2016

1.3 Median Age/Life Expectancy

TRENDS

Because of the aging population, the median age of the population has increased.

In 1986, the median age of Albertans was 29 years, the highest ever recorded. It is up from 26.9 in 1981, and is expected to increase to approximately 38 years by 2006. Of the three principal factors having an influence on aging (mortality reduction, the age structure of migrants, and the low rate of fertility), without question it is the low level of fertility that has had the greatest effect on the observed changes, just as it was the high rate of fertility during the baby-boom that produced the low median age during that period.

In addition to the trend towards an aging population, life expectancy has increased, especially for women.

Since 1931, average life expectancy has increased 10.9 years for men and 15.9 years for women. Between 1986 and 2016, life expectancy at birth for males in Alberta will increase from 73.2 years to 78.5 years, and for females from 80.3 years to 83.7 years.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.3a
Life Expectancy at Birth,
Alberta, 1951-2011

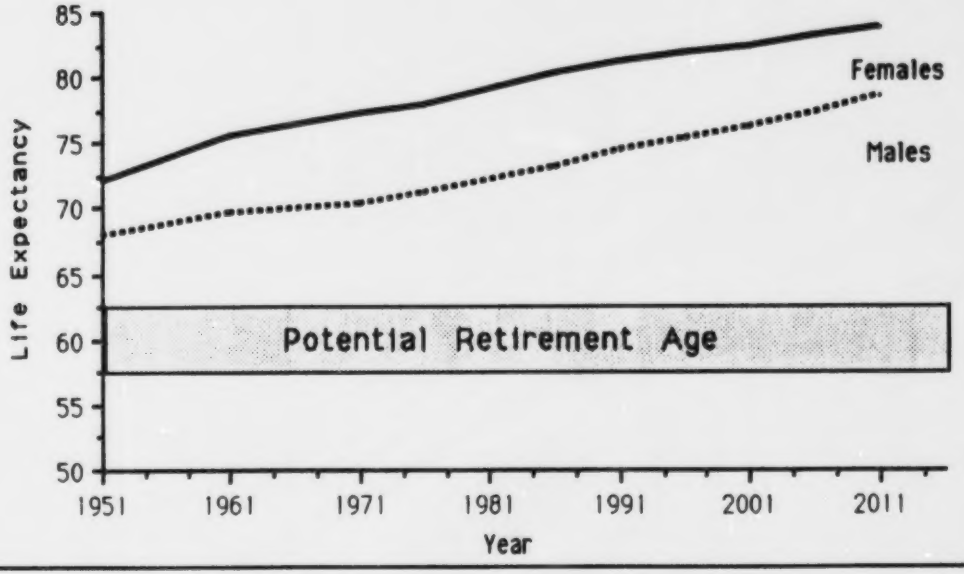
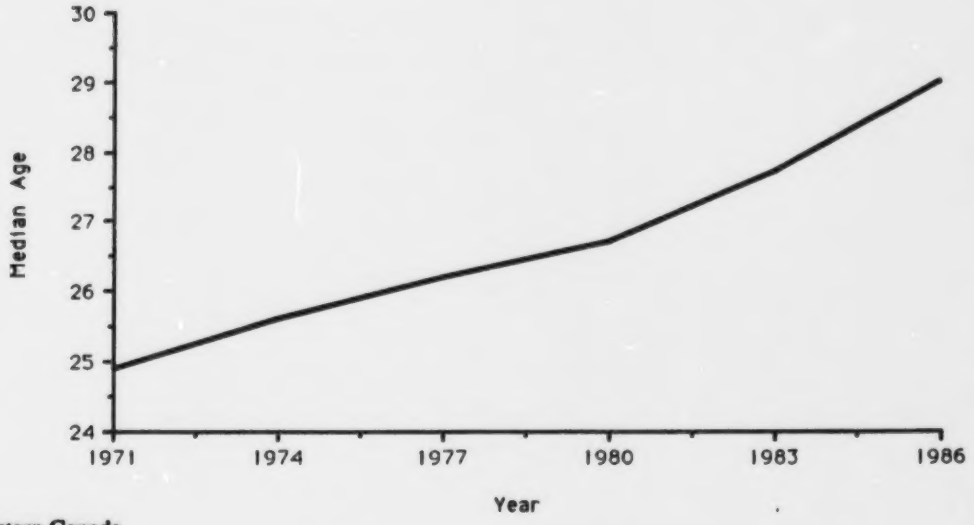


Figure 1.3b
Median Age of Albertans,
1971-1986



Sources: M. Brancher and P.Krishnan, Life Expectancy Trends in Western Canada
(A Statistics Canada Report - 1974); Alberta Bureau of Statistics

1.4 Marital Status of Albertans

TRENDS

The largest proportion of Alberta's population is married.
Since 1921, with the exception of the 1960s, there has been a steady increase in the proportion of Alberta's population that is married. In 1921, 38.6% were married, by 1986 this number had increased to 48.9%.

During the same period, **children, or those under 15 years of age as a proportion of the total population declined** from 36.3% to 23.7%. This current level is the lowest recorded proportion of children in Alberta's demographic history.

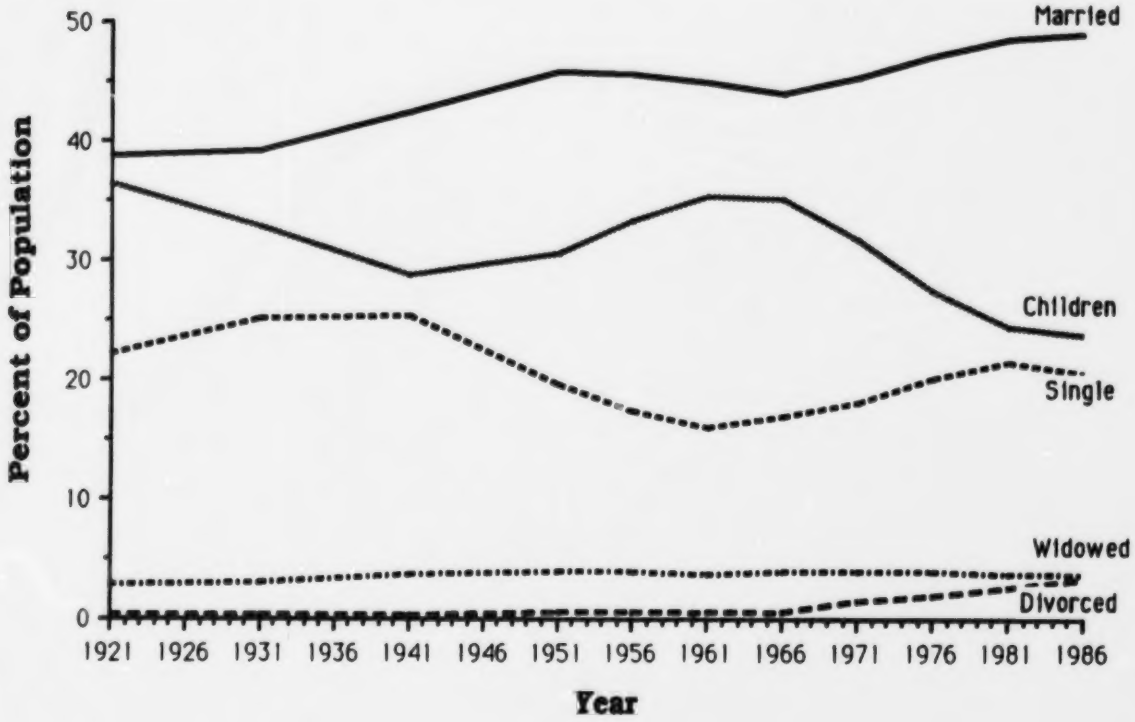
Single Albertans, as a proportion of the population, declined through the 1950s and 1960s, but steadily increased to 1981. At 20.4% in 1986, the proportion of single Albertans is slightly lower than the 1921 level.

The proportion of Albertans that are widowed and have not remarried has remained relatively small, increasing from 2.7% in 1921 to 3.7% in 1986.

The proportion of Albertans who have obtained a legal divorce and have not remarried increased from less than one percent in 1921 to 3.2% in 1986.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.4
Alberta Population by
Marital Status, 1921-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada.

1.5 Rural-Urban Distribution

TRENDS

In the last 35 years, Alberta's population has progressively become an urban population. The trend is expected to continue into the next century.
In 1951, 52.0% of Albertans lived in rural areas and, by 1986, 79.4% were living in urban areas. The increased urbanization is due to migration to cities from rural and interprovincial migration to urban areas, meaning that by 2001, 86.2% of the Alberta's population will reside in urban areas as compared to 79.4% in 1986, and 73.5% in 1971.

Despite the growth in Alberta's urban centres, the actual rural population is expected to remain relatively stable between 420,000 to 490,000.
Over the 50 year period from 1951 to 2001, the rural population is expected to decline by only 70,000. It is the tremendous growth in urban areas that drives the change in the rural-urban ratio. The census metropolitan areas of Edmonton and Calgary together account for 77.6% of the urban population, and 61.6% of the total population.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.5a
Rural-urban Distribution
of Alberta Population, 1951-2001

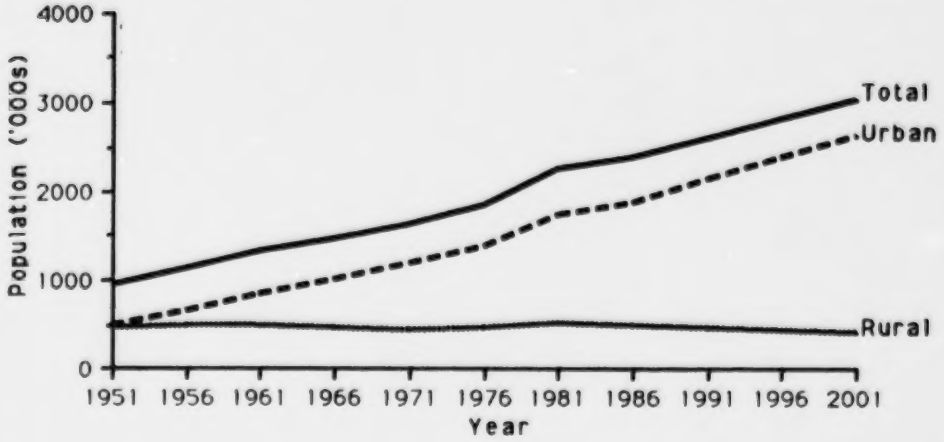
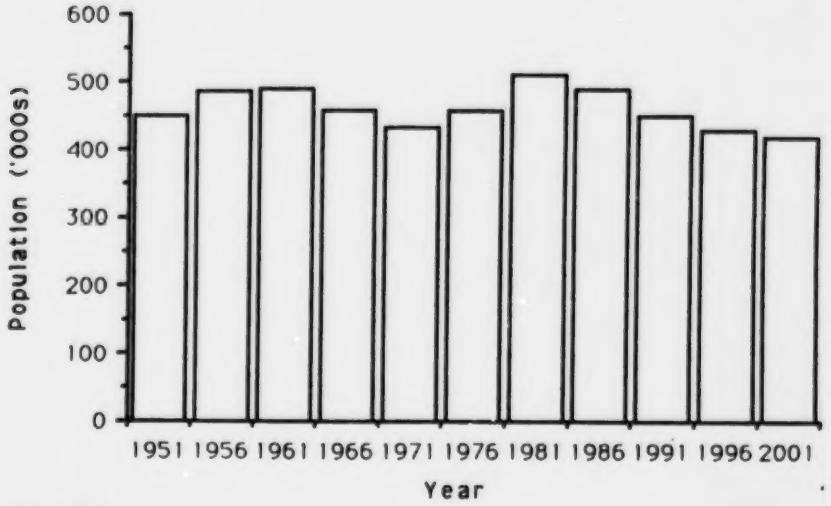


Figure 1.5b
Alberta Rural Population
1951-2001



Sources: Statistics Canada, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada; Alberta Bureau of Statistics

1.6 Interprovincial Migration

TRENDS

Because of a change in its economic activity, Alberta has experienced significant population mobility in recent years as a result of interprovincial migration. Consequently, Alberta's population, including the school-age population, is nearly twice as mobile than any other province or region in Canada; three times as mobile as that of Ontario, and five times as that of Quebec.
Throughout the 1970s, Alberta had experienced a major net influx of population from all over Canada as a result of its economic boom. Falling international oil prices in the early 1980s brought an end to the economic boom, and resulted in a population outflow.

During the period 1976-81, Alberta had a net gain of 186,314 migrants, substantially up from the 11,714 migrants during 1971-76. However, in the 1981-86 period, Alberta experienced a net loss of 29,319 people. This trend is expected to continue, but the level of population outflow will decrease. The second quarter of 1988, 13,930 people moved from Alberta, while 13,240 came to live in the province, resulting in a net loss of 690 people.

Between 1982-83 and 1985-86, two differing trends in interprovincial migrations emerged. For 5-13 year olds, a net outflow of between 2,000 and 6,000 annually has been consistent with that of the overall population. But during the same period, 14-17 year olds have experienced a net gain of between 1,000 and 3,000 annually. These trends are expected to continue.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 1.6
Net Region to Region Migration Flows between Alberta and Provinces, 1961-1986

	Annual Net Flows[1]				
	1961-66	1966-71	1971-76	1976-81	1981-86
Between Alberta and					
Atlantic	526	966	727	30,088	-1,928
Quebec	53	1,351	1,511	27,208	3,384
Ontario	-869	289	4,895	99,581	-26,206
Prairies[2]	5,441	10,227	8,229	42,902	-73
British Columbia	-5,668	-6,243	-3,635	-18,193	-6,216
Total[3]	-397	6,401	11,714	186,314	-29,319

1 This table outlines differences in interregional migration. A positive figure indicates that more people came to the indicated region from the sub-region than went from that region to the sub-region. A negative figure, of course, indicates the opposite.
2 Includes Manitoba and Saskatchewan.
3 Total migration figures include persons moving to and from the Northwest and Yukon Territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, International and Interprovincial Migration in Canada, 1977 and 1978, Catalogue No. 91-208; and Demography Division, unpublished estimates.

1.7 International Immigration

TRENDS

After declining in the last seven years, international immigration to Alberta has begun to increase moderately.

Between 1966-71 and 1976-81, the number of immigrants to Alberta increased from 59,860 to 69,784, or 16.5%. However, the number of new immigrants to the province fell to 64,717 during the period 1981-86, a decline of 7.2%. The decline could be due to Alberta's slower economic growth. Recently, immigration has slightly increased, and in 1986-87, 10,178 immigrants arrived in Alberta.

It is anticipated that population problems, and economic and political turmoil in Central and South America will increase the flow of immigrants from these areas to the United States and Canada. As well, the Federal Government announced in May 1988 that the immigration policy has been changed to allow brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles to join family members already living in Canada - a move that would influence the flow of new immigrants to Alberta.

It appears that international immigration to Alberta has shifted from primarily European countries to non-European countries over the last two decades.

In 1965, approximately 85% of all immigrants to Alberta originated from either Europe, the United States, Australia, or New Zealand. By 1985, only 26.6% originated from these countries. However, over the same period, the proportion of immigrants to Alberta arriving from Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and the Caribbean increased from 13% to 72.5%. In particular, immigrants from Asia have become the major source of international immigrant population to Alberta, increasing from 11.3% in 1965 to 53.7% in 1985. This has contributed to the increasing multicultural nature of the Alberta population.

Immigrants have reinforced the existing distribution of Alberta's urban population.

Approximately 80% of all immigrants in Alberta list Calgary or Edmonton as their intended destinations. In 1986, of the 10% of Canadian immigrants coming to Alberta, Calgary and Edmonton received 4% each.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.7a
Annual Number of Immigrants to Alberta, 1966-67 to 1986-87

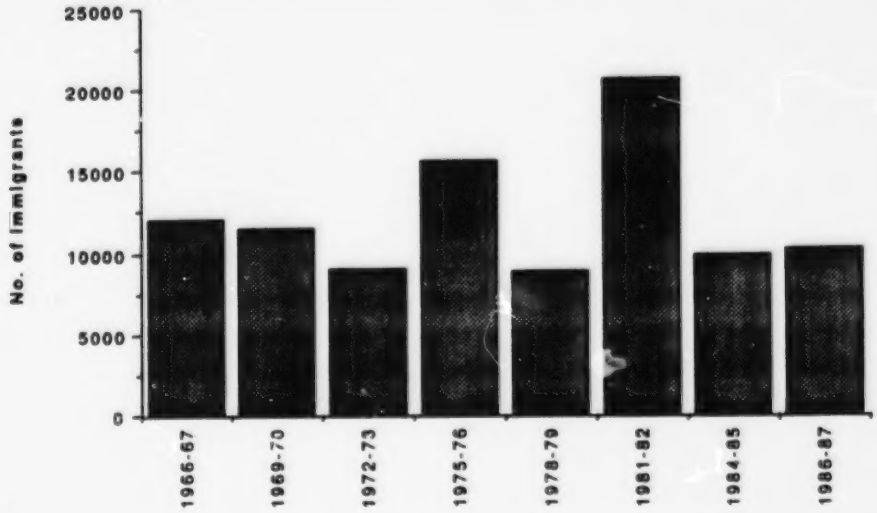


Table 1.7b Origins of Immigrants to Alberta (in Percent)

	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985
Europe	64.0	45.3	42.1	33.3	17.6
U.S.	19.6	25.8	14.1	7.8	8.1
N.Z./Australia	2.3	5.2	1.7	1.6	0.9
Totals	**85.9**	**76.3**	**57.9**	**42.7**	**26.6**
Africa	1.4	5.9	6.2	3.6	4.4
Asia	11.3	28.7	25.8	47.9	53.7
Central and South America, Caribbean	0.2	6.4	8.8	5.2	14.4
Totals	**12.9**	**21.6**	**40.8**	**56.7**	**72.5**
Other	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.1	0.9

Table 1.17c Top Ten Countries of Origin for Alberta Immigrants: 1985

(number originating from each country)

Vietnam	1962	India	432
United States	721	Philippines	428
Hong Kong	703	Poland	343
El Salvador	539	Kampuchea	327
Great Britain	472	China	208

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Immigration Statistics* (Annual); Employment and Immigration Canada

1.8 Births

TRENDS

In the last 35 years, Alberta's birthrates and the rate of natural increase have generally fallen. However, since the number of potential mothers has continued to increase, there were actually more births in 1986 than 1951.

In 1951, there were 28.8 births per 1000 population in Alberta. This figure had fallen to 18.4 by 1986. Similarly, the rate of natural increase per 1000 population, or the difference between births and deaths declined from 21.2 to 12.8 in the same period. Barring changes in the fertility rates, the birthrate and the rate of natural increase will continue to show slower rates.

Despite the declining birthrates, the annual number of total births in Alberta has increased moderately in the last 15 years. In 1986, Alberta was one of only three provinces to record an increase in the number of live births. From 1951 to 1986, the total number of births in Alberta increased from 27,003 to 43,670 births, reaching a high of 45,000 in 1983. Total births have steadily but slightly declined from 1983 reaching 43,160 in 1987.

Among the reasons or trends cited for the declining birth and fertility rates are the following:

- **new birth control technology**
- **entrance of large numbers of women into higher education and the labour force**
- **more expansive role for women in society today.**

As a result, the following trends have also been observed:

- **families are having fewer children**
- **delayed marriages (average age of people entering a first marriage increasing)**
- **increasing childlessness among young married women.**

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.8a
Total Births in Alberta,
1951-1987

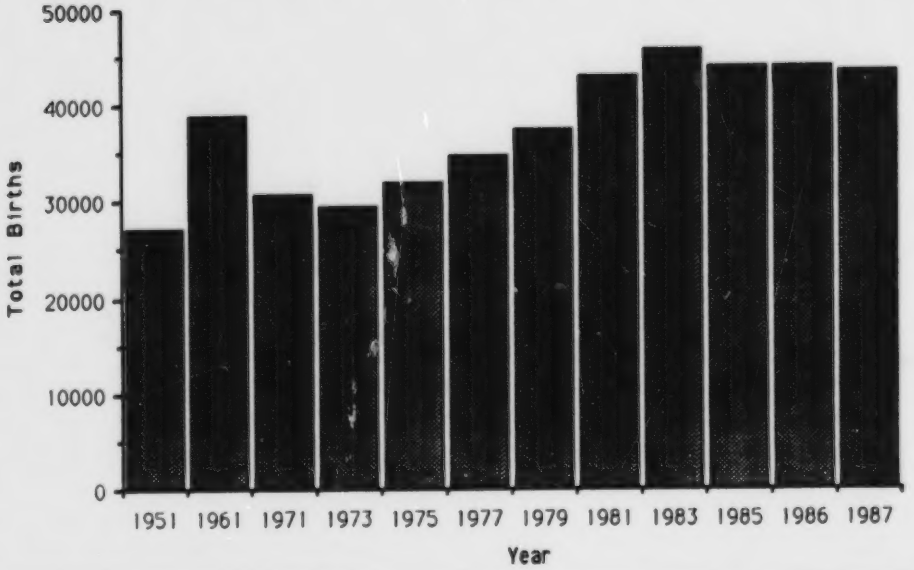
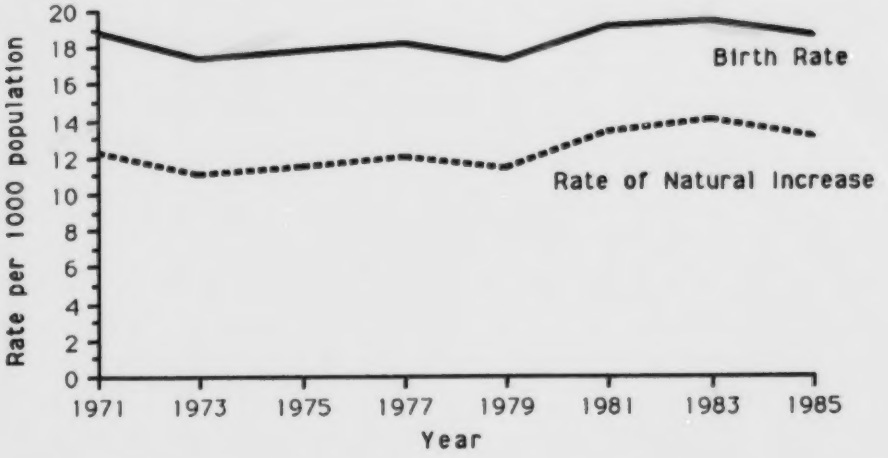


Figure 1.8b
Birth Rate and Rate of
Natural Increase,
Alberta, 1971-1985



Source: Alberta Community and Occupational Health,
Vital Statistics Annual Review

1.9 Fertility Rates

TRENDS

In the last 30 years, the Fertility Rate, or the expected births per woman entering child-bearing years (15-49) has continued to decline.
From an average of 3.27 children per woman in 1951, the fertility rate increased to 4.28 in 1956, but has since consistently decreased to 1.9 births per woman in 1986. If the trend continues, the fertility rate is expected to decline to 1.75 by 2001, and to 1.61 by 2016 (assuming a medium projection rate.)

Consequently, the General Fertility Rate, or the number of births occurring per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49 years has also declined.
Like the fertility rate, the general fertility rate increased from 117.8 in 1951 to 132.1 in 1956, but has since fallen to 67.4 in 1985.

As well, the Age-specific Fertility Rate, or the number of births per 1,000 women in specific age groups has shown similar rates of decline.
Between 1951 and 1986, the fertility rate of women aged 15-19 years declined from 55.9 to 35.6, and from 220.5 to 102.4 for women 20-24 years old. For women aged 25-29 years, it declined from 207.8 to 134.6, and for women aged 30-34 years, the rate declined from 143.6 to 86.0. During the same period, the fertility rate of women aged 35-39 also declined, from 84.6 to 24.6; for women 40-44 years old, it declined from 28.9 to 3.0; and for women 45-49 the rate of decline was from 2.9 to 0.2.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.9a
Fertility Rates in Alberta, 1951-2016

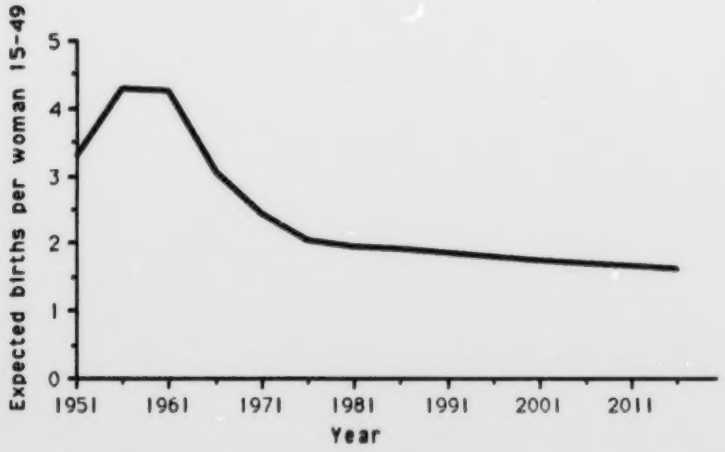


Figure 19b
General Fertility Rates, Alberta, 1951-81

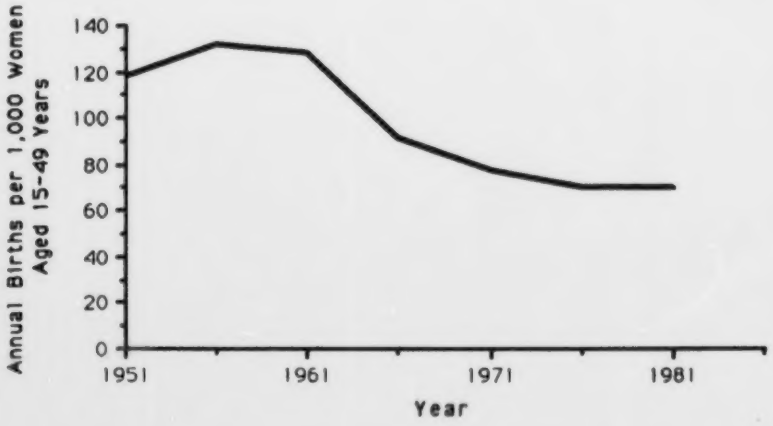
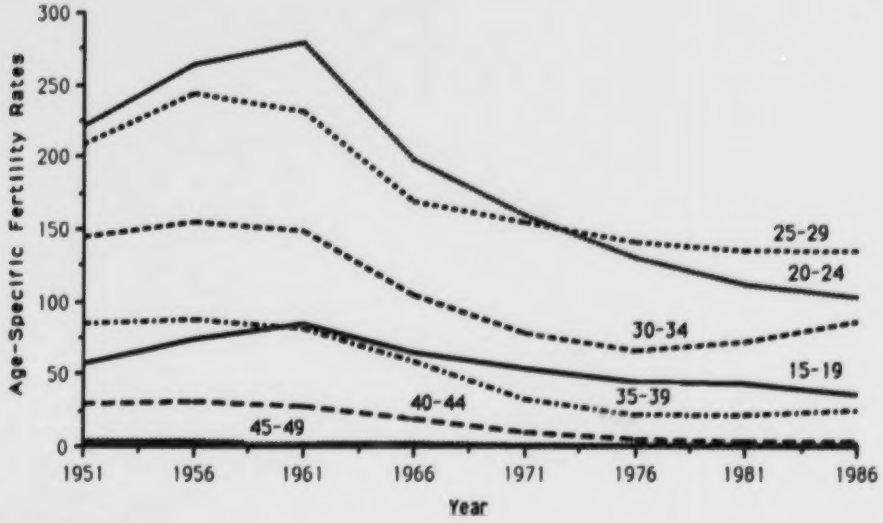


Figure 1.9c
Age-Specific Fertility Rates
Per 1,000 Women,
Alberta, 1951-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Births and Deaths, Vital Statistics, Volume I (Annual), Catalogue No. 84-204; Alberta Bureau of Statistics

1.10 Native Population and Fertility Rates

TRENDS

Alberta's Native population is growing faster, and has a much younger population than the non-native population.
While the non-native population of the province grew by only 5.7% between 1981 and 1986, Alberta's Native population increased by 15.3% from 1981 to 1986.

As well, the Native school-age population (5-19) is increasing at a faster rate than the non-Native population.
In 1986, 40.4% of Natives were 5-19 years old as compared to 22.8% for non-Natives. When children 0-19 years are compared, the rate jumps to 54.4% for Natives and 31.4% for non-Natives.

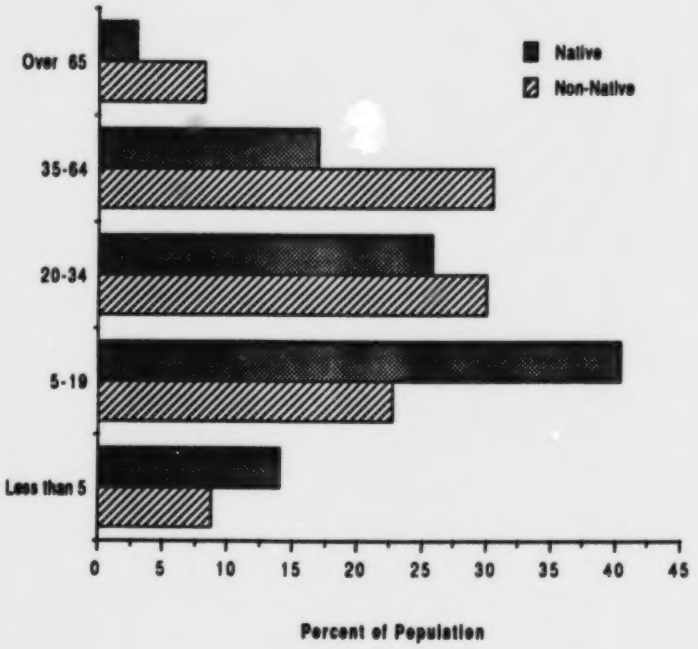
The Native population will continue to grow .
Medium growth population projections of Registered Indians on and off reserves in Alberta show a growth of 23.7% between 1986 and 1996, or from 45,600 to 56,412.

The 0-17 age group will decline from 52.4% in 1981 to 43.6% in 1996. During the same period the 18-64 age group will increase from 44.4% to 53.5%, and the 65 and over age group will decline from 3.2% to 2.9%.

Native fertility rates have shown a steady decline since 1950, however, they are still higher than the national average.
In 1971, there was a difference of 3 children per woman between the Native and non-Native populations; by 1981, this gap was reduced by half, to 1.5 children.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 1.10a
Distribution of Native and Non-Native Populations by Age, Alberta, 1986



Source: Statistics Canada, *1986 Census of Canada;*
Alberta Native Affairs Secretariat

Figure 1.10b
Total Fertility Rates for Registered Indian Population, Canada and Regions, 1971-1996

Region	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996
						SLOW DECLINE
CANADA	5.3	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.6
ATLANTIC	4.2	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.4
QUEBEC	4.8	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2
ONTARIO	4.1	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.3
MANITOBA	7.0	4.3	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.8
SASKATCHEWAN	7.3	4.9	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.0
ALBERTA	5.8	4.5	3.8	3.5	3.2	2.9
B.C.	4.2	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2
TERRITORIES	6.0	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.7
						RAPID DECLINE
CANADA	5.3	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.4	2.1
ATLANTIC	4.2	3.3	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.9
QUEBEC	4.8	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9
ONTARIO	4.1	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.2	1.9
MANITOBA	7.0	4.3	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.3
SASKATCHEWAN	7.3	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.7	2.3
ALBERTA	5.8	4.5	3.8	3.2	2.7	2.3
B.C.	4.2	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9
TERRITORIES	6.0	3.7	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.1

Note: Rates for 1971 to 1981 are estimates and those for 1986 to 1996 are projections.

Source: 1971-1981: Rates are calculated from the Indian Register, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), adjusted for the late reporting of births and deaths; 1986-1996: B. Ram and A. Romaniuc, *Fertility Projections of Registered Indians, 1982 to 1996*, Research Branch, INAC, 1985.

2. Family and Society

HIGHLIGHTS

- Decrease in family size as a result of declining birth rates.
- Increase in the number of families without children.
- Increase in the proportion of families headed by a lone parent.
- Increase in the number of out-of-wedlock births.
- Higher abortion levels.
- Higher divorce rates.
- Higher family income.
- Increase in the number of social assistance/caseloads.
- Increase in the number of children living in low income families.
- Higher level of educational attainment.

2.1 Families / Family Size

TRENDS

In the last 45 years, there has been a dramatic increase in the total Alberta population and the number of Albertans in families. The number of Albertans not in families has increased as well.
Between 1941 and 1986, Alberta's population increased from 796,169 to 2,365,825, or an average annual rate of 4.4%. During the same period, the number of Albertans in families grew by an average annual rate of 4.1%, increasing from 687,724 to 1,962,755.

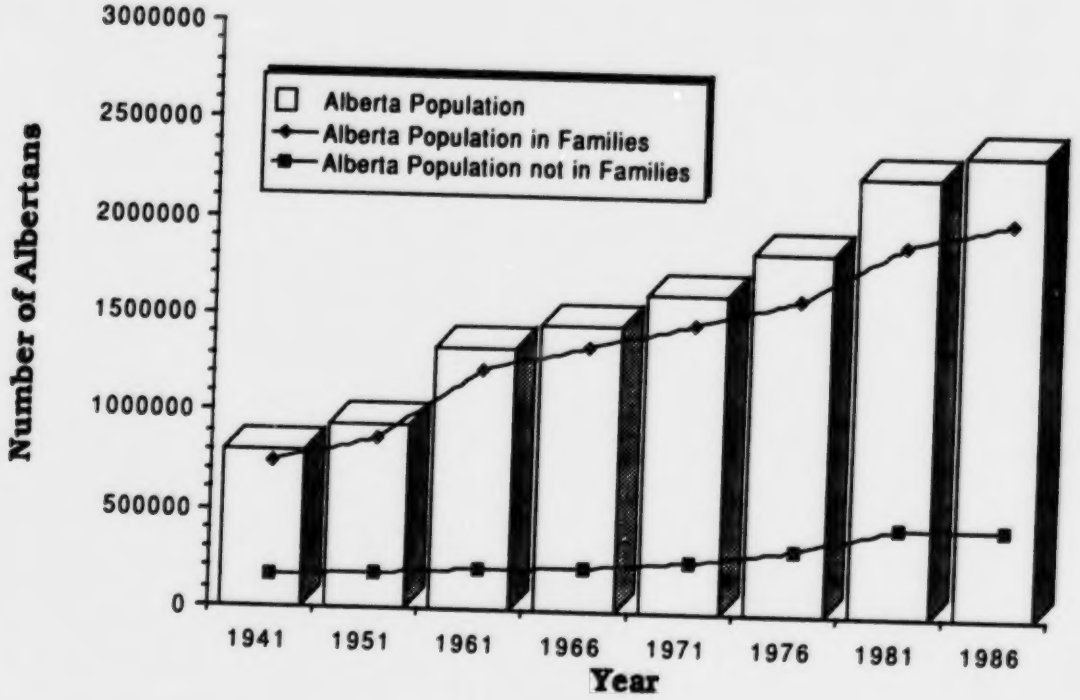
From 1941 to 1986, the number of Albertans not in families grew by an average of 6% per year, increasing from 108,445 in 1941 to 403,070 in 1986.

It should be noted that the Alberta population not living in families includes a moderate number of elderly Albertans who may be living alone because of loss of spouse. For example, in 1986, there were 63,650 widowed Albertans over the age of 65 years.

The average size of the Alberta family has declined.
In 1941, there were 3.9 persons per family in Alberta. By 1986, the number of persons per family declined to 3.2, and is expected to drop to 2.5 persons by the year 2006.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.1
Alberta Population and Family Membership, 1941-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, 1941, 1951, 1951, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada

2.2 Husband-Wife and Lone Parent Families With and Without Children at Home

TRENDS

Although the total number of husband-wife and lone parent families has increased, the proportion of all Alberta families with children at home has declined, but has recently stabilized.
Between 1961 and 1986, the number of husband-wife and lone parent families with children at home increased from 221,846 to 415,050. In 1941, 73.0% of husband/wife and lone parent families in Alberta had children at home. But, by 1986, the proportion of families with children at home in Alberta had fallen to 67.3%. While the total number of families has increased, the proportion of families with children at home was at its lowest point in 1981.

The trend to families without children at home has slowed and stabilized in recent years.

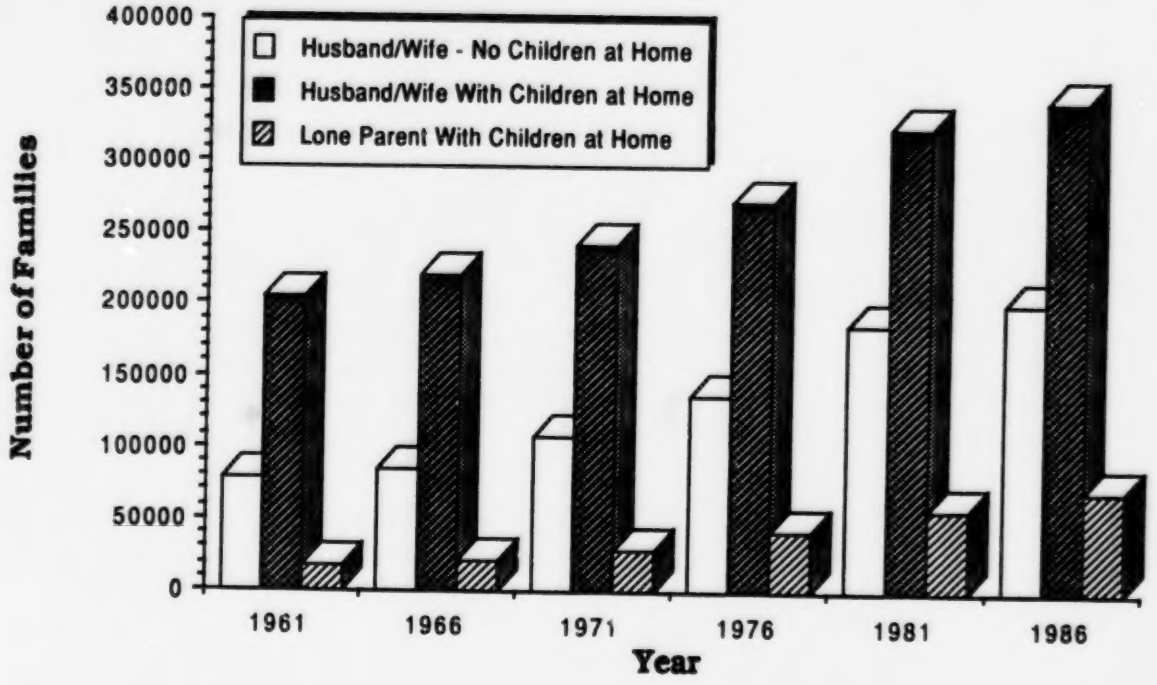
The number of lone parent families increased from 5.6% or 17,141 in 1961 to 11.8% of all families, or 72,860 in 1986. During the same period, **the number of husband-wife families declined** from 92.4% or 282,350 to 88.2% or 543,465. **In 1986, 82.3% of lone parent families were headed by females.**

Both the total number and the proportion of husband-wife families with no children at home have increased in the last 25 years.
From 1961 to 1986, the number of husband-wife families with no children at home more than doubled, increasing from 77,645 to 201,275. At the same time, proportionate to the total number of all Alberta families, they increased from 25.9% to 32.8%.

As Alberta's population ages, families also age. Families with children at home during the 1960s would now usually have no children living at home.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.2
Families in Alberta
by Type, 1961-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, *1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada*

2.3 Children Living at Home

TRENDS

The number of children living at home per husband-wife and single parent families is declining.
In 1961, there were 2.59 children living at home in a husband-wife family. By 1986, the number of children living at home per husband-wife family has declined to 1.93.

Similarly, during the same period, the number of children living at home in a lone parent family declined from 2.02 children to 1.51 children.

These trends are reflective of a general decline in birth and fertility rates across the country.
From an average of 3.27 children per woman in 1951, the fertility rate, or the expected births per woman in Alberta increased to 4.28 in 1956, but has since steadily declined to 1.9 births per woman in 1986. If this trend continues, the fertility rate is expected to decline to 1.75 children in 2001, and to 1.61 children by the year 2016.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.3a
Total Children in Families, and in Husband-Wife and Lone Parents

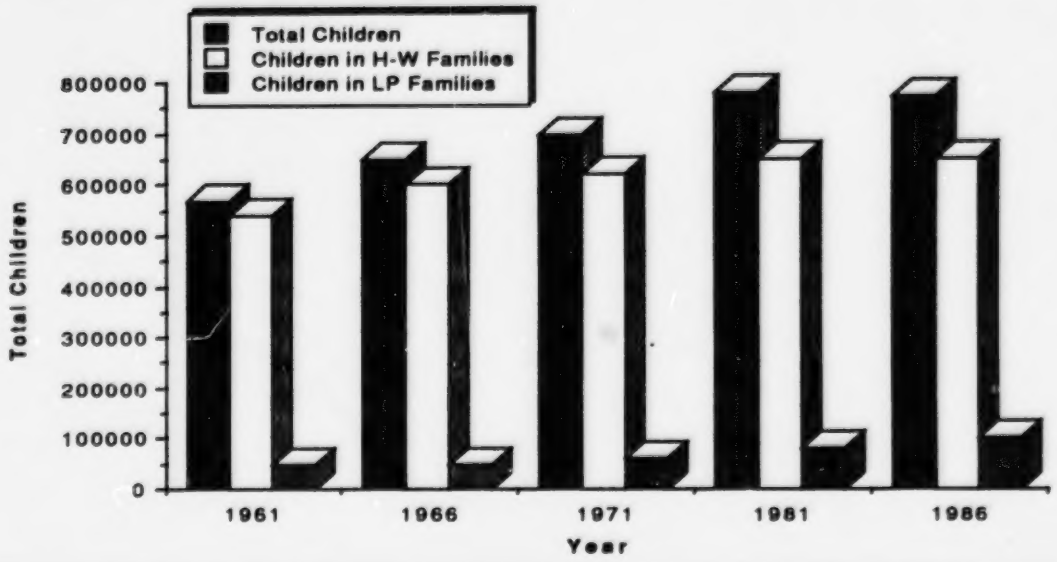
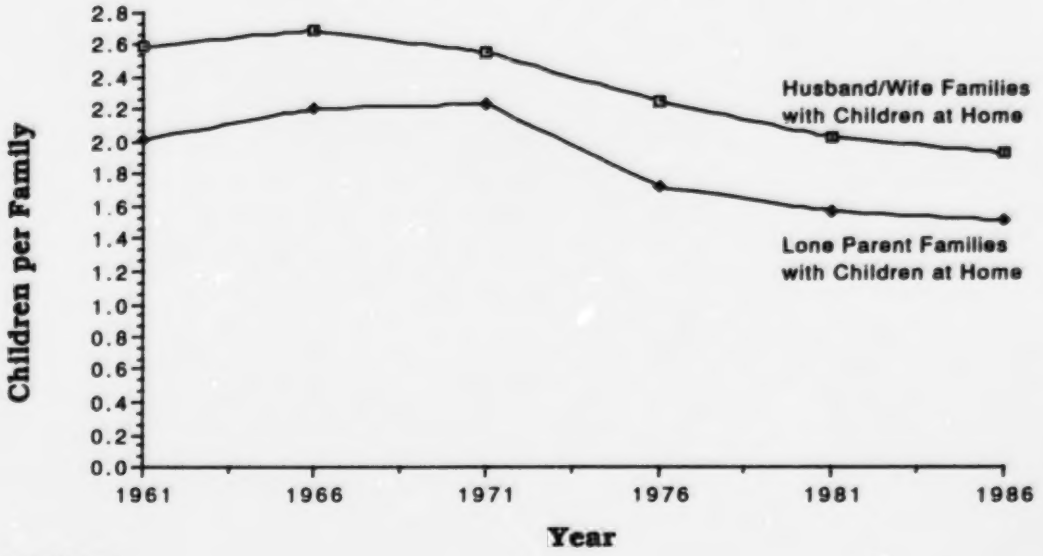


Figure 2.3b
Number of children Living at Home Per Family (with children living at home), 1961-1986



Sources: Statistics Canada, *1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada*

2.4 Out-of-Wedlock Births

TRENDS

The number of out-of-wedlock births in Alberta is increasing.
Between 1976 and 1986, the number of births to unmarried women increased from 3,398 to 7,969 or 134%. The out-of-wedlock births represented 18% of all births in Alberta in 1986, as compared to 10% in 1976.

The largest number of births to unmarried mothers historically occurred among women under 20 years of age, but this has changed in recent years. Currently, women aged 20-24 years have the largest number of out-of -wedlock births.
In 1986, women aged 20-24 years represented the highest percentage of out-of-wedlock births in Alberta, 37.4%, followed by women over 25 years, 33.2%, and women under age 20, 29.5%. This represents a change from 1976 when women aged 20-24 years represented second highest percentage of out-of-wedlock births in Alberta, 33.6%, preceeded by women under age 20, 43.2%.

Births to unmarried females as a percentage of all births is highest among females aged 10-19 years.
Between 1976 and 1986, the number of births to unmarried women aged 10-19 years as a percentage of all births increased from 37.3% to 74.5%. It increased from 9.7% to 26.1% for women aged 20-24 years, and for women 25 years and over, the number of births increased from 4.6% to 9.2%. The number of out-of-wedlock births has at least doubled in all age groups.

The largest increase of out-of-wedlock births is in the 25+ group.
Between 1976 and 1986, the number of out-of-wedlock births for women over 25 years have more than tripled, from 787 to 2,642.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

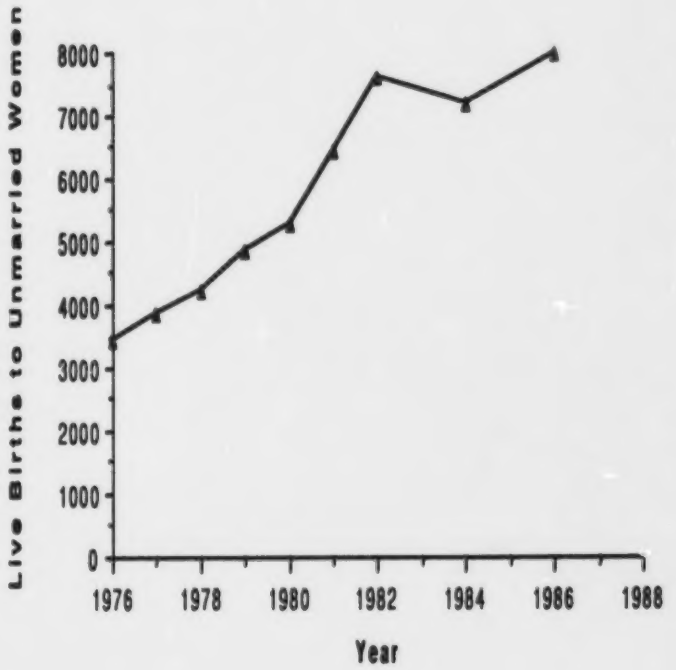
Table 2.4
Live Births to Unmarried Women by Age Group, Alberta, 1976-1986.

	Age Groups			
	Under 20	20 - 24	25 and Over[1]	Total
	Number of Births			
1976	1,468	1,143	787	3398
1977	1,697	1,284	854	3835
1978	1,771	1,485	936	4192
1979	1,958	1,724	1,145	4827
1980	2,021	1,917	1,339	5271
1981	2,211	2,230	2,005	6446
1982	2,420	2,645	2,523	7588
1984	2,174	2,797	2,162	7133
1986	2,350	2,977	2,642	7969
	As a Percentage of Total Out-of-Wedlock Births			
1976	43.2	33.6	23.2	
1977	44.3	33.5	22.3	
1978	42.2	35.4	22.3	
1979	40.6	35.7	23.7	
1980	38.3	36.3	25.4	
1981	33.8	35.5	30.7	
1982	31.9	34.9	33.2	
1984	30.5	39.2	30.3	
1986	29.5	37.4	33.2	

1. Includes "not stated" ages.

Sources: Alberta Community and Occupational Health, Vital Statistics Annual Review.

Figure 2.4
Live Births to Unmarried Women, Alberta, 1976-86



2.5 Abortions

TRENDS

Since 1981, the number of therapeutic abortions performed in Alberta has slightly declined. The therapeutic abortion rate, or the number of abortions per 100 live births declined from 15.8 in 1981 to 14.9 in 1985. In 1981, there were 6,757 therapeutic abortions performed. The number of abortions declined to 6,484 in 1983, but rose slightly to 6,668 in 1984 and then fell to 6,547 in 1985.

The therapeutic abortion rate for Alberta women aged 15-19 years has remained relatively constant since 1974. The abortion rate showed a gradual increase from 20.0 per 1000 females aged 15-19 in 1974 to a high of 24.0 in 1978, and then declined back to 20.0 in 1983. The Alberta abortion rate is above the national level. Since 1978, both the number and the percentage of abortions to women under 20 years of age in Alberta has declined from 2,463 or 36.9% of all abortions to 1,696 or 25.3%. In 1984, the abortion rate among women aged 15-19 years in Alberta was 23.9% higher than the rate for Canada.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.5a
Total Therapeutic Abortions,
Alberta, 1981-85

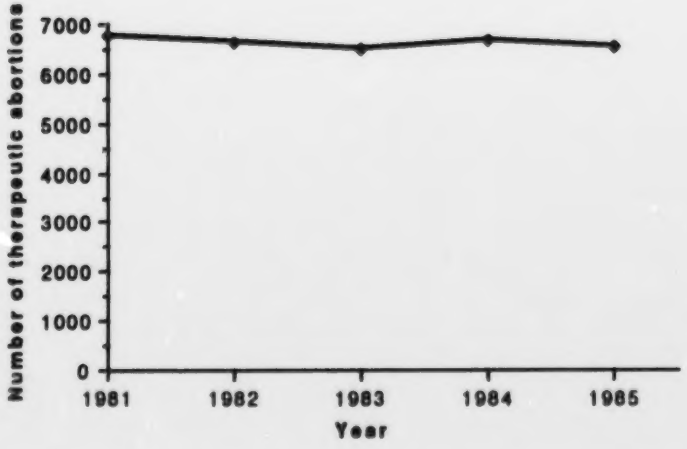


Figure 2.5b
Therapeutic Abortion Rate Per 100 Live Births,
Alberta, 1981-85

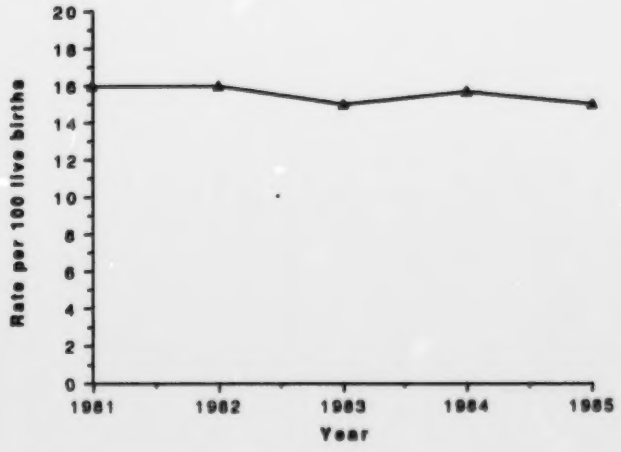
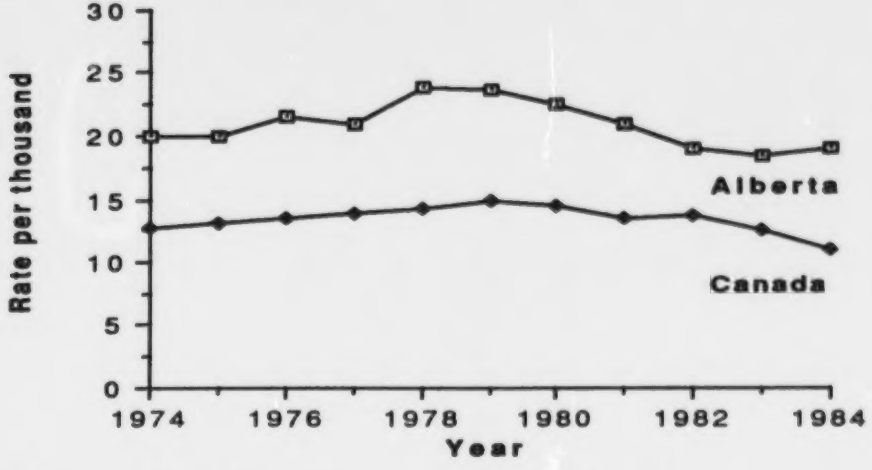


Figure 2.5c
Therapeutic Abortion Rate
Per 1,000 Females aged 15-19,
Alberta and Canada, 1974-84



Sources: Statistics Canada, *Canada Year Book 1988*, Catalogue No. 11-402E; Alberta Community and Occupational Health

2.6 Marriages and Divorces

TRENDS

Since 1971, there has been a steady increase in the number of divorces in Alberta. The number of marriages in Alberta has declined since 1981. In 1971, 3,656 of Alberta's 318,062 married couples divorced. By 1986, divorces in Alberta had increased by 156.7% to 9,386, while the number of married couples increased by 56.6% to 498,310. Even with the large increase in divorces since 1971, the annual divorce rate for all married couples in Alberta was under 1.9% in 1986. During the 1971-1986 period, marriages rose from 15,614 in 1971 to 21,781 in 1981 and declined to 18,896 in 1986. Since 1971, 224,341 more couples have married than have divorced. **An increasing proportion of marriages involve individuals who have been divorced.** In 1976, 25.8% of all marriages in Alberta involved at least one partner who had been previously divorced. By 1981 this proportion had increased to 28.9% and in 1986 reached 32.2%. **Albertans may divorce at a greater rate than most other Canadians but they also remarry at a high rate.**

In 1974, 16,691 couples were married in Alberta. Using marriage mortality statistics for Alberta (Average 1978 to 1986 divorces by length of marriage rates applied to annual number of divorces in Alberta 1974 to 1986), an estimate of the proportion of the couples marrying in 1974 remaining married in 1986 was developed. **An estimated 72% of the couples married in 1974 were still married to the same spouse in 1986.** Given the high remarriage rate of divorced Albertans, it is very likely that a significant number of the cohort divorced have remarried. Over half of the divorces occurred during the fourth and eigth year of marriage, with the peak during the seventh year. **The most frequently used grounds for divorce in Alberta in 1985 was mental cruelty at 49.4%** compared to 34.9 percent in Canada. The second most frequently used grounds in Alberta in 1985 was physical cruelty at 27.4% compared to 21% in Canada. The least frequently used grounds in Alberta was adultery at 23.2% but adultery was the most frequently used in Canada at 43.9%.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.6a
Number of Married Couples in Census Year, Alberta,

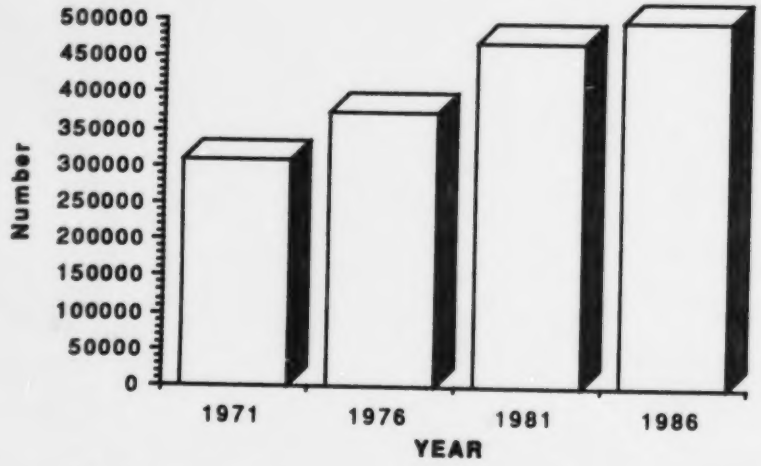


Figure 2.6b
Marriages and Divorces Alberta, 1971-1986

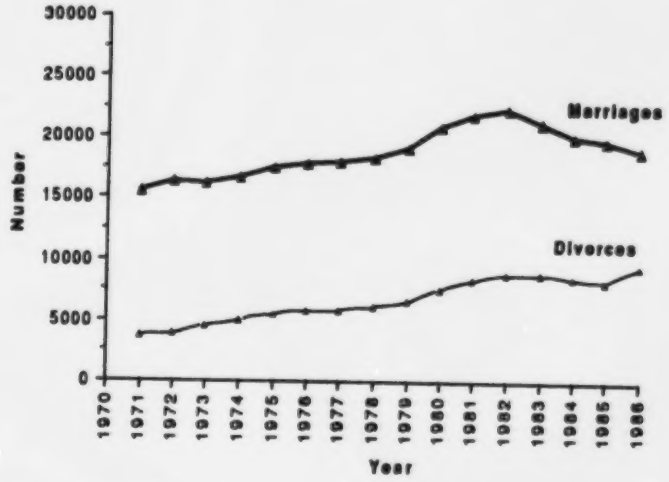
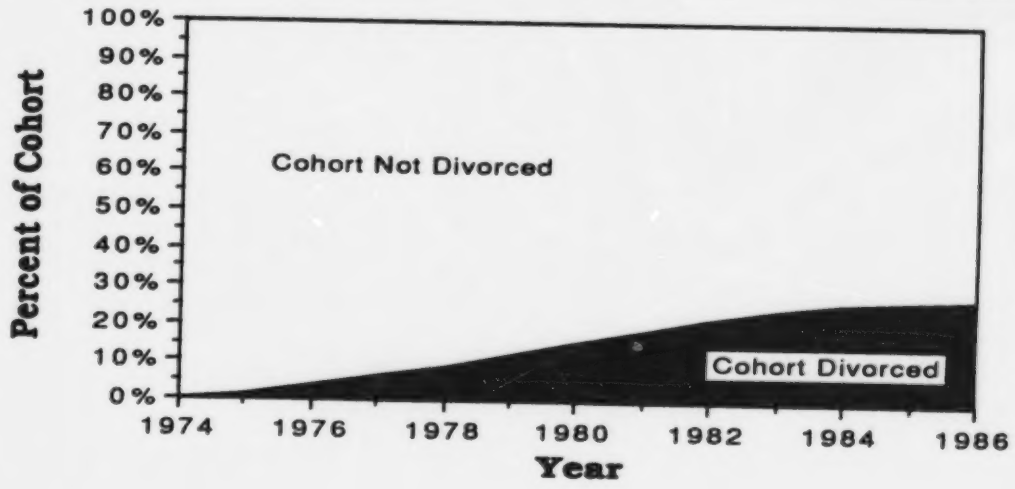


Figure 2.6c
Estimated Proportion of 1974 Marriages in Alberta not Ending and Ending in Divorce by 1986



Sources: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces, Vital Statistics, Vol. II (Annual)*, Catalogue No. 84-205; Alberta Community and Occupational Health, *Vital Statistics Annual Review*

2.7 Divorces Involving Children

TRENDS

Couples with children living at home have a substantially lower rate of divorce than couples without children.

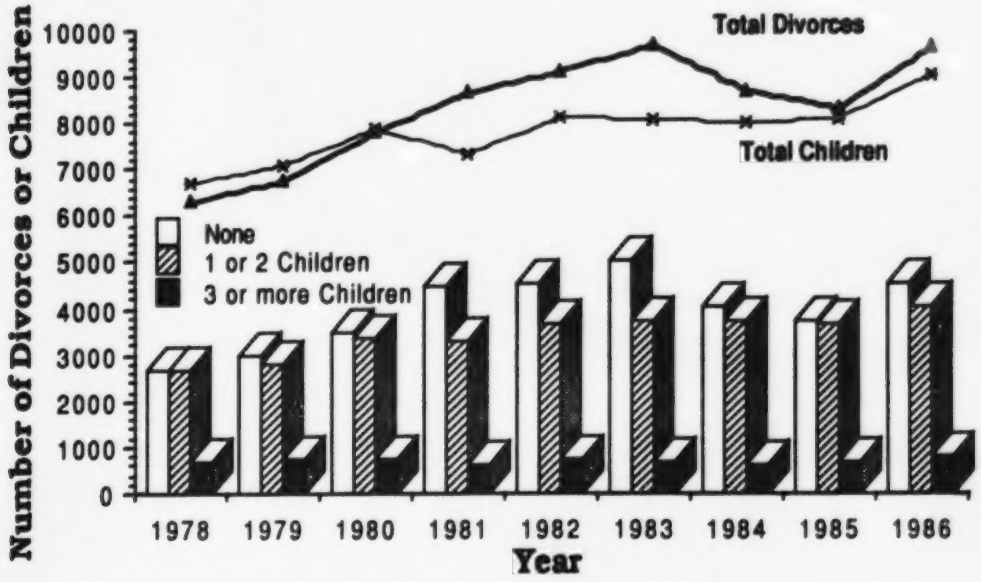
From 1978 to 1985, married couples with no children living at home accounted for between 44.1% (1978) and 53.3% (1981 and 1983) of all divorces in Alberta. In 1981, 2.8% of all married couples without children living at home were divorced compared to 1.3% of all married couples with children living at home. In 1986, 2.6% of all married couples without children were divorced while 1.5% of all families with children were divorced in 1986.

With the exception of 1980, the total number of divorces is larger than the number of children living at home directly affected by divorce in Alberta. However, divorce is the single largest factor in the rising number of lone parents.

In 1976, Separated/Divorced lone parents accounted for 59.9% of all lone parents. By 1986 this proportion had risen to 66.3% of all lone parents. In contrast, the number of Widowed lone parents declined from 32.7% in 1976 to 19.6% in 1986, and the number of Never Married lone parents nearly doubled from 7.4% to 14.1% of all lone parents over this time period.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.7
Divorces in Alberta by Number of Children Living at Home, 1978-1986



Note: Estimate of number of children living at home based on multiplying the number of couples divorcing by number of children and aggregating for each year.

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Marriages and Divorces, Vital Statistics,* Vol. II (Annual) Catalogue No. 84-205; Alberta Community and Occupational Health, *Vital Statistics Annual Review*

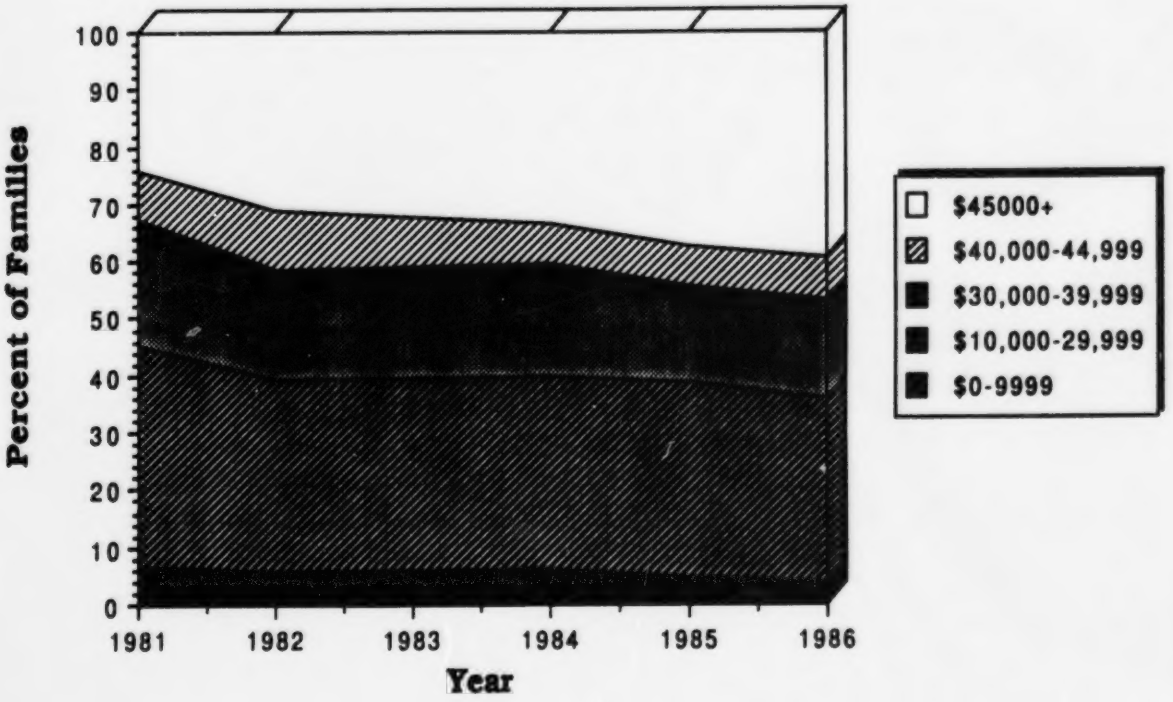
2.8 Family Income

TRENDS

Family income in Alberta has increased.
The percentage of Alberta families earning less than $10,000 declined slightly from 6.6% in 1981 to 3.8% in 1986. During this same time period, the proportion of Alberta families earning more than $45,000 increased from 24.3% to 39.3%. While family incomes generally increased, the number of children from low income families increased as well. In 1981, 9.3% of all children came from low income families. By 1986, this proportion had increased to 12.2% of all children. The increase in the number of children from low income families may be due to an increase in the number of single parent families. **The growth in family incomes in Alberta has been affected by the increasing rate of participation of women in the workforce, particularly those with children.** The percentage of working women in Alberta's labour force is substantially higher than the rest of Canada.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.8
Percentage Distribution of Family Income in Alberta, 1981 to 1986



Source: Statistics Canada.

2.9 Social Assistance and Poverty

TRENDS

Since 1980, the number of Albertans on social assistance has increased. Between 1980 and 1987, the number of welfare cases in the province increased from 30,010 to 69,923, an increase of 133%. Although the number of single parent welfare cases also increased from 13,121 to 22,934, single parent caseloads, as a percentage of the total welfare caseloads, declined from 43.7% to 32.8% in 1987.

The low income cut-off levels (as defined by Statistics Canada) for a family of four in 1981 were $12,035 for those living in a rural area; $13,521 for those living in urban area of less than 30,000 population; and $16,361 for those living in an urban centre of 500,000 population or more. The corresponding low income cut-off levels in 1986 were $15,938, $17,905, and $21,665 respectively.

In 1981, the number of children under 16 years of age living in low income families was 69,670 or 11.7 % of all children. By 1984, the number of children in low income families increased to 131,180 or 21.9%, but declined to 119,930 or 19.5% in 1985, and to 93,640 or 15.6% in 1986.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.9a
Welfare Caseload
in Alberta, 1980-1987

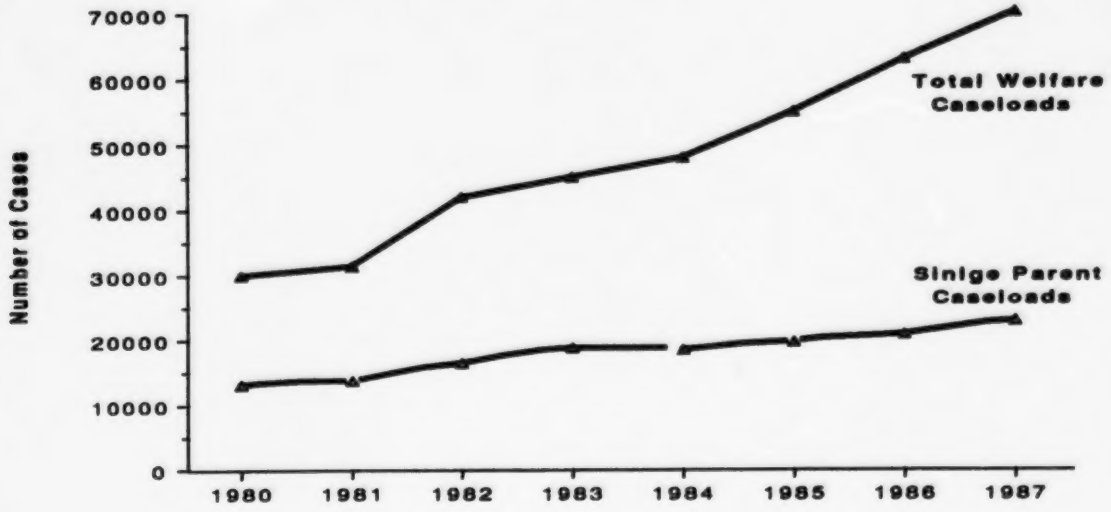
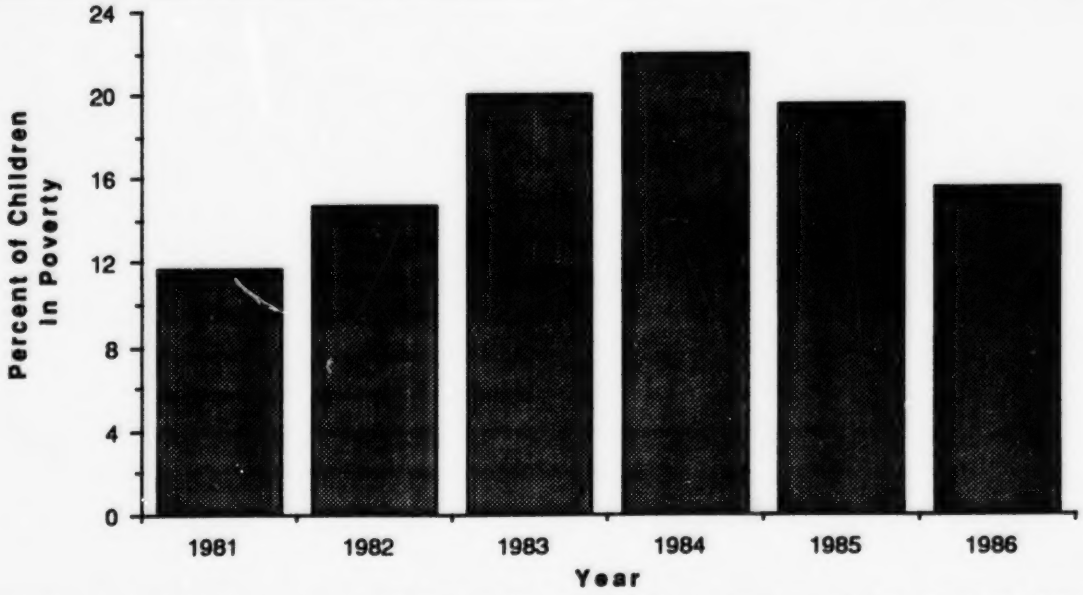


Figure 2.9b
Alberta Children
in Poverty (%),
1981-1986



Sources: Alberta Social Services; Statistics Canada, *Income Distribution by Size in Canada* (Annual), Catalogue No. 13-207 and *Survey of Consumer Finances*, Special Tabulation

2.10 Female Lone Parenthood

TRENDS

The following findings are based on the Family History Survey conducted by Statistics Canada in 1984 on women aged 16 to 65:

- one out of every four women surveyed has been or is still lone parent;
- about 50% of all female lone parenthood are due to separation and/or divorce; 33% due to out-of-wedlock births; 17% due to widowhood;
- on the average, at onset of lone parenting episode, unwed mothers are ten years younger than separated/divorced parents who are in turn ten years younger than widowed lone parents;
- the older the lone parent the higher is the probability that the lone parenting episode will be ended by the child(ren) leaving home while the younger the lone parent the higher the probability that the lone parenting episode will be ended by marriage;
- unwed mothers are younger, have a high probability of marrying (81 %), but those marrying also have a high probability of becoming lone parents again through divorce (28 %).

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 2.10
Female Lone Parenthood:
Family History Survey, 1984

Originating Event	Number of Women	Average Age at Onset of Episode	Episode ending by: Marriage	Child Leaving	Average Duration of ended Episode	Episode Continuing	Average Duration at time of Survey
Out-of-wedlock births	460,000	20.6	372,480	11,520	3.5 years	76,000	8.9 years
(%)	32.95%		80.97%	2.50%		16.52%	
Separation/ Divorce	697,000	31.6	303,380	90,620	5.3 years	303,000	6.0 years
(%)	49.93%		43.53%	13.00%		43.47%	
Widowhood	239,000	41.8	66,670	46,330	6.2 years	126,000	8.8 years
(%)	17.12%		27.90%	19.38%		52.72%	
TOTAL	1,396,000	29.7	742,530	148,470	4.6 years	505,000	7.1 years

Source: Moore, Maureen. "Female Lone Parenthood - The Duration of Episodes", *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada, Autumn 1988.

2.11 Educational Attainment For Population Aged 15 years and Over

TRENDS

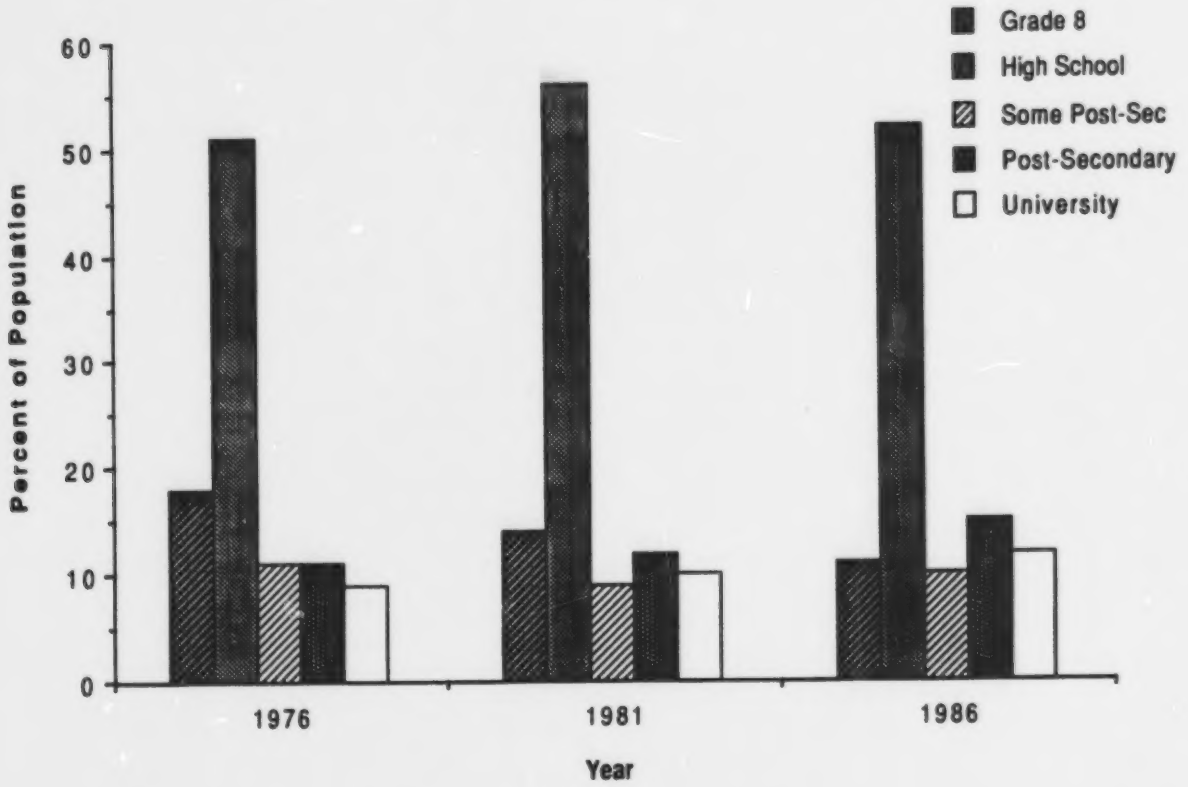
Overall, Albertans have significantly higher level of educational attainment than other Canadians.
Between 1976 and 1986, Albertans with less than Grade 8 education have declined from 18% to 11%, well below the national level of 19%. The proportion of the population with Grade 12 education has remained relatively constant increasing from 51% to 52%, with the Canadian average in 1986 being 50 %.

Over the same period, the proportion of the population with some post-secondary education has declined from 11% to 10%, however, those with a post-secondary education have increased from 11% to 15%, considerably higher than the Canadian average of 12%.

In 1986, Alberta had proportionately more people with university degrees than any other province in Canada. The percentage of Albertans with a university degree increased from 9% in 1976 to 13% in 1986, with the Canadian average in 1986 being 10%.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 2.11
Percentage Distribution of Alberta Population, 15 Years and Over, by Educational Attainment, 1976-1986



Source: Statistics Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase in the number of young offenders.
- Early and high level of sexual activity among adolescents.
- High teen pregnancy rate.
- Decline in alcohol use by adolescents.
- Increase in the number of adolescents in AADAC's treatment programs for alcohol or drug problems.
- Suicide rate for young people aged 10-19 years among the highest in Canada.

3.1 Young Offenders

TRENDS

The number of young persons charged under the Young Offenders Act is increasing.

Between 1985-86 and 1987-88, the number of young persons charged with Federal Statute Offences increased from 8,247 to 8,878, an increase of 7.6%. On April 1, 1985, the maximum age requirement of 17 years came into full effect across Canada, setting national standards for the age limits of young persons. The minimum age of a "young person" has been raised, upon inception of the Young Offender Act; from 7 years to 12 years, with anyone under the age of 12 years now being classified as a child and therefore outside the authority of the Act.

Majority of the crimes involves males aged14-17.

In 1987-88, 72% of the young persons charged were male between the ages of 14-17. Most are charged with residential break-ins and theft under $1,000.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 3.1
Number of Young Persons Charged by Age and Sex of the Accused, 1985-86

	Total	< 12	12	13	14	15	16	17	> 17	Unknown
1985-86										
Total	8,247	10	326	834	1,396	1,789	1,797	2,043	36	16
Male	6,549	9	274	617	1,054	1,375	1,449	1,730	29	12
Female	1,698	1	52	217	342	414	348	313	7	4
1986-87										
Total	8,857	14	297	688	1,249	1,744	2,188	2,583	80	14
Male	7,154	11	235	533	925	1,391	1,782	2,203	66	8
Female	1,703	3	62	155	324	353	406	380	14	6
1987-88										
Total	8,878	3	268	603	1,124	1,716	2,315	2,655	186	8
Male	7,295	2	208	481	882	1,381	1,904	2,266	164	7
Female	1,583	1	60	122	242	335	411	389	22	1

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Youth Court Statistics*, 1985-86 to 1987-88.

3.2 Teen Sexuality

TRENDS

Reports indicate early and high sexual activity among Alberta's teenagers. A 1985 study noted that one in six Alberta teens was sexually active between the ages of 10 and 14, and Alberta Community and Occupational Health reports that 40% to 50% of Alberta teens between 14 to 18 were likely to be sexually active.

A 1981 study of 810 Calgary teens aged 13 to 18 years reported that by age 13, 16.6% of teens had experienced sexual intercourse rising to 66.7% by age 18. Six years later, in June 1987, the Calgary Board of Health reported that 66% of Calgary teens were sexually active by age 18, and 17% by age 13, reflecting similar pattern as found in 1981 on teenage sexual experience. A December 1988 report on AIDS and sexual attitudes of Canadian teens underscored the high sexual activity among teenagers. The study found that 31% of boys and 21% of girls reported having had sexual intercourse, at least once by Grade 9. By Grade 11, the total rose to 49% for boys, and 46% for girls.

Alberta's sexually-active teenagers do not adequately protect themselves against infection

The number of reported cases of gonorrhea for 15-19 year old Alberta teens has decreased from 2,578 (1,033 - males and 1,545 -females) in 1980 to 1,053 (336 - males and 717 - females) in 1987. Although the rate of gonorrhea incidence has declined in recent years, Alberta records the highest incidence rate of gonorrhea in Canada, 86.8% higher than the national average across all age groupings.

In 1986, reporting of NGU/MPC (which includes chlamydia) cases was initiated. In 1986, there were 2,315 (520 -males and 1,795 -females) cases of NGU/MPC reported for Alberta teens. This increased to 2,977 (641 -males and 2,336 - females) cases in 1987. A 1987 report by Alberta Community and Occupational Health indicates that Alberta has the highest rate in Canada of teenage hospitalization for pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and ectopic pregnancy; gonorrhea and chlamydia infections both produce PID and ultimately ectopic pregnancy.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 3.2a
Number of Reported Cases of Gonorrhea
For Alberta Teens (15-19) Year Olds

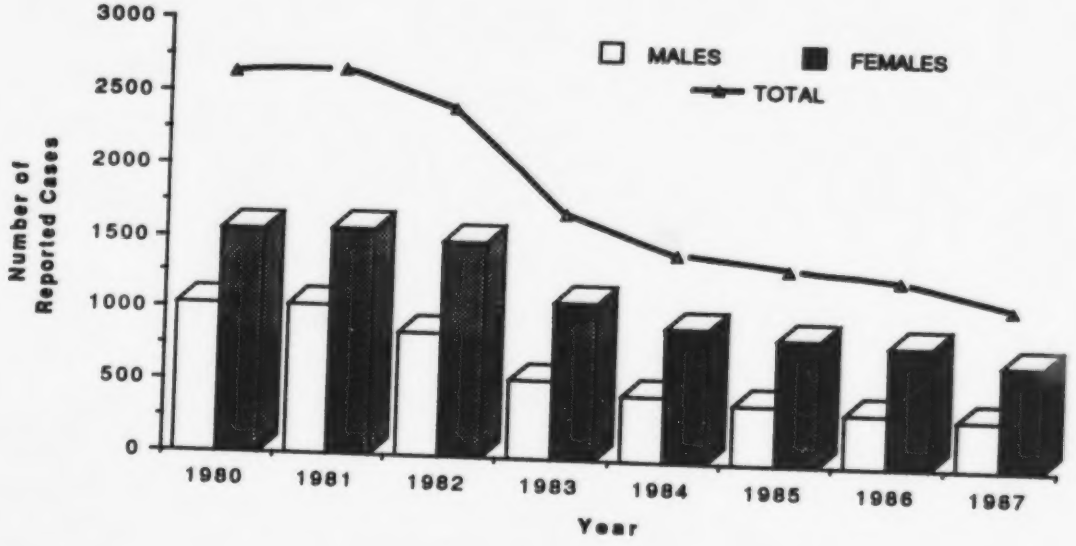
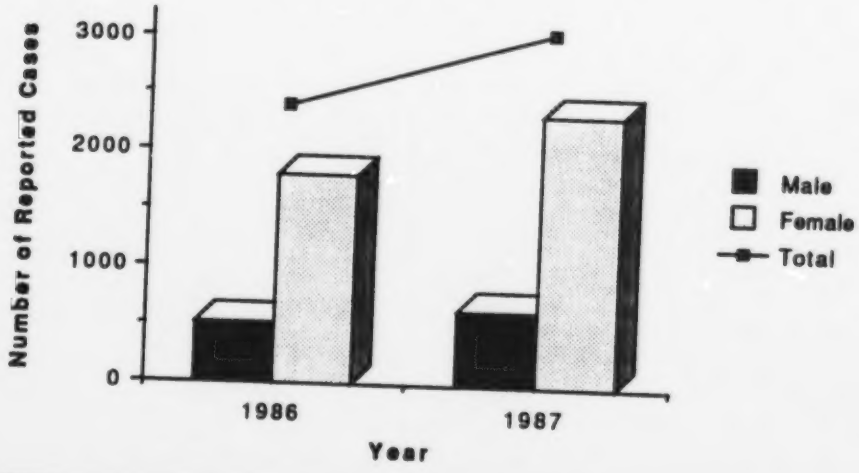


Figure 3.2b
Number of Reported Cases of NGU/MPC
for Alberta Teens (15-19 Year Olds)



Source: Alberta Community and Occupational Health

3.3 Teen Pregnancy

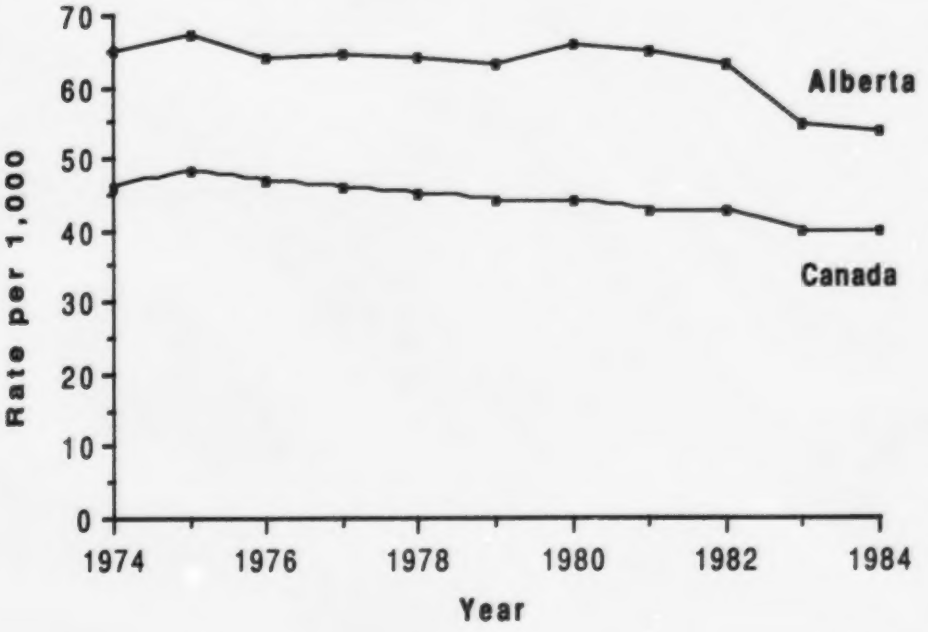
TRENDS

Alberta teenagers are more likely to become pregnant than teens in most other Canadian provinces. If current trends continue, the Alberta's adolescent (12-19 years) pregnancy rate will continue to be higher than the Canadian average.

An Alberta Community and Occupational Health study reports that between 1974 and 1984, the adolescent pregnancy rate (live births plus abortions) was significantly higher in Alberta than the rest of the country. Although from 1974 to 1984 the rate declined by 19.6% in Alberta, and by 17.3% across the country, the Alberta rate remained 36.8% higher than the overall national rate.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 3.3
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate,
12-19 Year Olds,
Alberta and Canada,
1974-1984



Source: Alberta Community and Occupational Health, *In Trouble. . . A Way Out: A Report on Pregnancy and Sexually-Transmitted Diseases in Alberta Teens, 1984*

3.4 Substance Use and Treatment

TRENDS

3.4.1 Substance Use

AADAC's Prevention Program, Benchmark Surveys of Alberta 12-17 year olds show that:

Alcohol

. Overall the proportion who drink alcohol has declined from 55% in 1981 to 43% in 1987. The decline has been substantial for 12-13 year olds and for 16-17 year olds. There has been less overall decline in alcohol use by 14-15 year olds over this period. The downward trend among those under 16 years of age has slowed significantly over the year.

Cigarettes

. Overall the proportion who smoke daily has remained relatively stable from 19.9% in 1981 to 19.6% in 1987. While there has been an overall decline by 16-17 year olds over this period, those aged 12-13 and 14-15 who smoke daily have shown an increase. For all age groups females have a higher rate of being a daily smoker than males.

Drugs

. Overall the proportion who use marijuana has declined significantly from 25.1% in 1981 to 12.9% in 1986. This decline has been substantial for 14-15 year olds and for 16-17 year olds. There has been less overall decline in marijuana use by 12-13 year olds over this period. The proportion of adolescents who use other drugs (Hallucinogens, Heroin/Opiate, Tranquillizers, Amphatamines, Cocaine, and Barbiturates) has declined as well.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 3.4.1a Substance Use: Alcohol, by Adolescents, 12-17 Year Olds, Alberta, 1981-1987

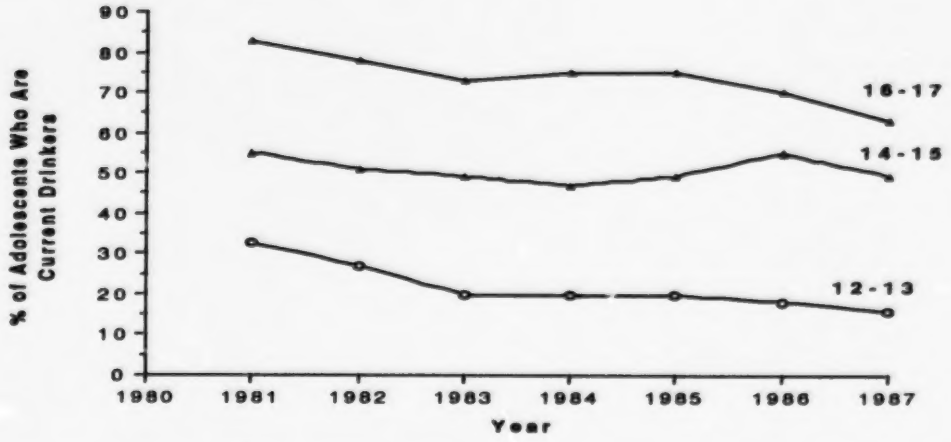


Figure 3.4.1b Substance Use: Cigarettes, by Adolescents, 12-17 Year Olds, Alberta, 1981-1987

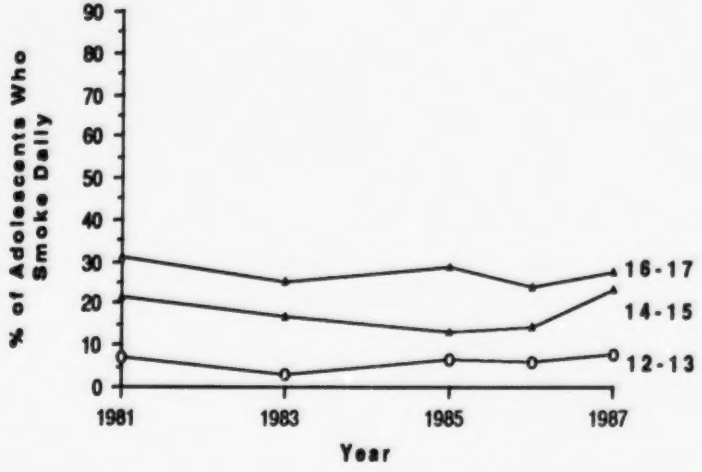
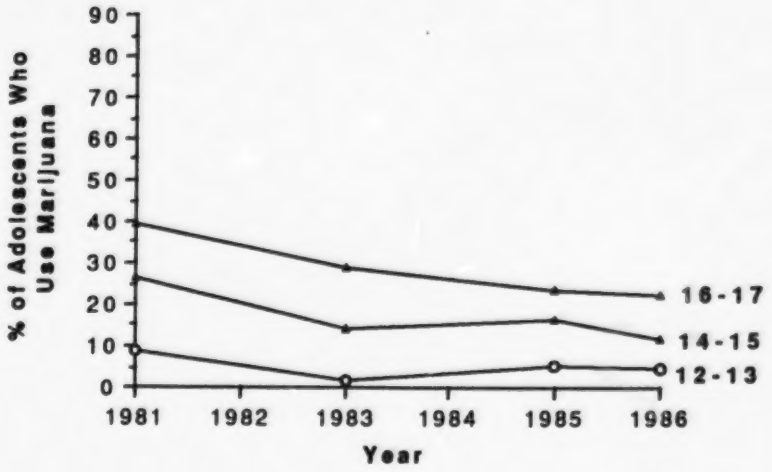


Figure 3.4.1c Substance Use: Marijuana, by Adolescents, 12-17 Year Olds, Alberta, 1981-1986



Source: AADAC, Prevention Program, Benchmark Surveys

Table 3.4.1 Substance Use by Alberta Teens

How many teenagers drink?	**1981**	**1985**	**1989**
- % of Alberta teenagers having consumed more than three drinks in their lives with at least one consumed in the last six months.	50%	47%	48%
- % of teen males who are drinkers.	-	51	49
- % of teen females who are drinkers.	-	44	47
- % of All Alberta 12-13 year olds who drink	30	21	25
- % of All Alberta 14-15 year olds who drink	56	47	47
- % of All Alberta 16-17 year olds who drink	79	74	73
What do teenagers perceive as consequences of their drinking?			
- % reporting drinking related problems with parents and family.	31	26	-
- % reporting drinking related problems with friends.	16	18	-
- % reporting drinking related problems involving police.	12	5	-
What are teenagers' other attitudes about drinking?			
- % reporting drinking related problems with parents and family.	-	36	-
- % of teens who feel they are mature enough to drink.	-	35	-
- % of teens who agree there is nothing wrong with moderate drinking.	-	50	-
- % of teens who feel that drinking makes a person more mature.	-	20	-
- % of teens who feel that drinking improves a party.	-	28	-
- % of teens who disagree that drinking is the best way to have a good time.	-	95	-

How many teenagers use cigarettes and other drugs?	**1981**	**1985**	**1989**
- % of teenagers who smoke cigarettes.	28%	21%	19%
- % of 12-13 year olds who smoke cigarettes.	17	10	7
- % of 14-15 year olds who smoke cigarettes.	28	18	20
- % of 16-17 year olds who smoke cigarettes.	39	35	31
- % of teens who have smoked marijuana within six months prior to the survey.	25	15	11
- % of marijuana smokers who are male.	27	16	13
- % of marijuana smokers who are female.	23	14	11
- % of 12-13 year olds who have used marijuana.	9	5	4
- % of 14-15 year olds who have used marijuana.	26	17	13
- % of 16-17 year olds who have used marijuana.	39	24	18
- % of teenagers who *often* use marijuana.	7	2	-
- % of teens using hallucinogens in 6 months prior to survey.	6	4	4
- % of teens using amphetamines in 6 months prior to survey.	4	4	2
- % of teens using barbiturates in 6 months prior to survey.	1	1	2
- % of teens using cocaine in 6 months prior to survey.	4	2	2
- % of teens using heroin in 6 months prior to survey.	1	0	1
	12.2 Yrs.	**12.7 Yrs.**	
When do teenagers start drinking?			
- % of teens who had their first drink with parents.	-	60%	
- % of teens who had their first drink with friends and no parents present.	-	31%	

Source: Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), *Teenage Alcohol and Drug Use in Alberta: Summary Report 1989.*

3.4 Substance Use and Treatment (Cont'd)

TRENDS

3.4.2 Treatment

There has been a significant increase in the number of young people admitted for treatment.
In fiscal 1980/81, those aged 10-24 accounted for 17% of admissions; by 1986/87 this had increased to 23%.

The characterisitics and problems of adolescents that came to AADAC over the past seven years have remained fairly constant. During this period, over half (52%) of adolescents admitted reported alcohol as their primary concern, while 38% reported marijuana. Slightly less than 10% reported problems with a variety of other drugs (Hallucinogens, Heroin/Opiate, Tranquillizers, Amphatamines, Cocaine and Barbiturates).

The number of adolescents (12-17) admitted to AADAC's treatment programs for their own alcohol or drug problem has almost tripled over the past several years, increasing from 365 in 1981/82 to 1,040 in 1987/88. Adolescents represented 7% of all AADAC admissions during 1987/88. Almost two thirds (63%) of adolescents admitted were older (16-17) with nearly one-third (32%) aged 14 and 15. Those younger (12 and 13) accounted for 5%. The proportion of male (68%) and female (32%) admissions has remained about the same since 1981.

There has been an increase in the number of students seeking assistance. In 1981/82, 51% of adolescents admitted were students; by 1987/88, 67% of adolescents admitted were students. The proportion of admissions with a university or college degree has risen from less than 6% in fiscal 1980/81 to over 8% in 1986/87.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.5 Suicides

TRENDS

Suicide rates pertaining to the school-age population (10-19 years) in Alberta are among the highest in Canada. For young people aged 15-24 years in Canada, suicide is one of the leading causes of death.
In 1960, the suicide rate per 100,000 population for young Albertans aged 15-19 years was 4.2. Since then, the suicide rate for this age group has fluctuated, increasing to a peak of 26.0 in 1977, and declining to 14.4 in 1985. The suicide rate for the 10-14 age group has also fluctuated, increasing from 1.5 in 1961 to a peak of 3.9 in 1978, and declining to 1.2 in 1985. Between 1960 and 1985, the provincial suicide rate rose from 9.2 to 12.6 per 100,000 total population age ten years and over. The national rate rose from 7.6 to 12.9 during the same period.

Males have a generally higher suicide rate than females in both 10-14 and 15-19 age groups. In 1960, the suicide rate for Albertan males aged 15-19 years was 8.3 per 100,000 population. The rates fluctuated thereafter, reaching a record high of 42.7 in 1977. It declined to 22.9 by 1985. The rates for 10-14 males also fluctuated, from 3.0 in 1961 to 6.6 in 1978, and declined to 2.3 in 1985. The suicide rates for females has been significantly lower. The suicide rate for 10-14 females rose from 1.5 to 2.4 in 1969, and declined to 1.8 in 1984. The rate for the 15-19 year old females rose from 2.0 in 1961 to a high of 11.1 in 1972, and declined to 5.5 in 1985.

A study of youth suicides in Alberta, some causes and factors have been identified as contributing to suicidal behaviour in young people. These factors are:

- **history of mental disorder**
- **drug and alcohol problems**
- **chronic physical conditions**
- **mental health crisis**
- **perceived failures**
- **loss / bereavement**

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 3.5
Suicide Rates per 100,000 Population: Total Population, 10-14 and 15-19 Year Olds, Alberta, 1960-1985

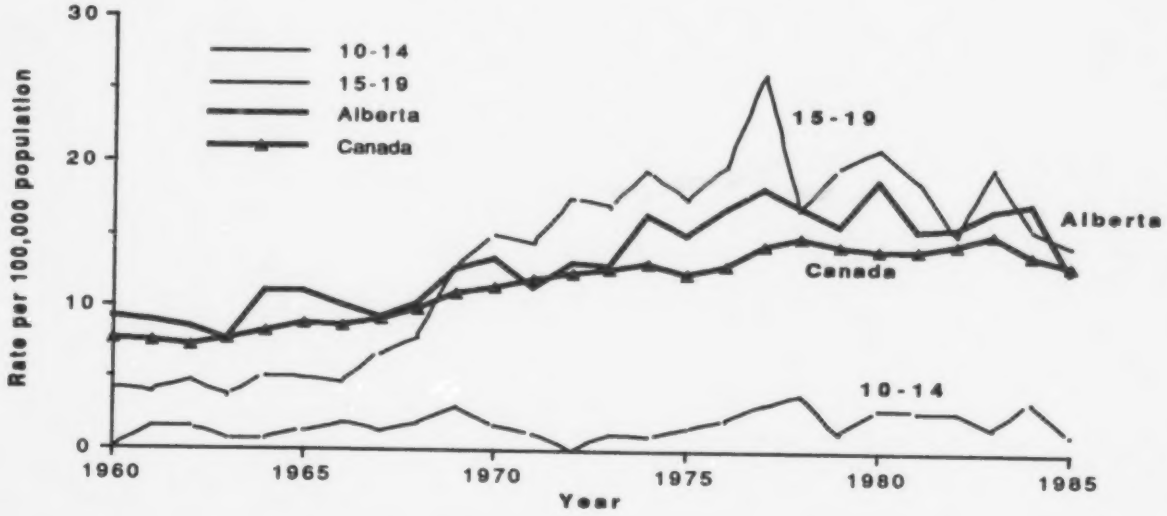


Table 3.5
Suicide Rates per 100,000 Population: Males and Females Aged 10-14 and 15-19 Years, Alberta, 1960-1985

Year	10-14 Year Olds				15-19 Year Olds			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
1960	-	(0.6)	-	(0.1)	8.3	(5.3)	-	(1.2)
1961	3.0	(0.8)	-	-	6.0	(3.7)	2.0	(0.9)
1962	1.4	(1.0)	1.5	(0.2)	9.4	(5.1)	-	(1.4)
1963	1.4	(1.2)	-	(0.1)	5.4	(5.3)	1.8	(2.4)
1964	1.3	(1.2)	-	(0.1)	10.2	(5.3)	-	(1.7)
1965	1.3	(1.2)	1.3	(0.3)	9.7	(5.5)	-	(1.8)
1966	3.7	(1.7)	-	(0.1)	9.2	(6.0)	-	(1.3)
1967	2.4	(0.9)	-	(0.2)	11.7	(8.5)	1.5	(1.5)
1968	3.5	(1.2)	-	(0.3)	13.8	(7.8)	1.4	(1.3)
1969	3.4	(1.0)	2.4	(0.3)	23.7	(10.4)	1.4	(1.8)
1970	2.2	(1.2)	1.1	(0.3)	23.9	(10.1)	5.3	(3.8)
1971	2.1	(1.1)	-	(0.4)	24.4	(12.7)	3.8	(3.1)
1972	-	(1.4)	-	(0.5)	23.6	(14.2)	11.1	(4.3)
1973	2.1	(1.6)	-	(0.3)	23.8	(13.6)	9.6	(4.3)
1974	2.1	(1.1)	-	(0.3)	28.7	(18.0)	9.3	(3.2)
1975	3.1	(1.6)	-	(0.3)	28.8	(15.8)	5.6	(4.2)
1976	3.1	(1.5)	1.1	(0.4)	29.3	(16.8)	9.5	(4.3)
1977	5.3	(2.0)	1.1	(0.7)	42.7	(20.2)	8.4	(4.7)
1978	6.6	(2.2)	1.1	(0.5)	28.7	(19.4)	4.0	(4.4)
1979	1.1	(1.5)	1.2	(0.7)	30.0	(20.6)	8.8	(4.9)
1980	3.4	(1.5)	2.4	(0.6)	31.8	(19.4)	9.7	(3.8)
1981	4.3	(2.5)	1.1	(1.0)	32.8	(21.2)	3.8	(3.8)
1982	5.4	(2.4)	-	(0.4)	25.8	(21.5)	3.9	(3.2)
1983	2.2	(2.1)	1.2	(0.3)	33.3	(22.7)	5.1	(3.7)
1984	5.6	(2.4)	1.8	(0.4)	26.2	(21.0)	4.3	(3.2)
1985	2.3	(1.3)	-	(0.6)	22.9	(18.4)	5.5	(3.6)

Notes: 1. A single dash (-) in a cell of the Table indicates that there were no suicides for that age group in the specified year.
2. For national comparisons, Canadian suicide rates are those in brackets.

Sources: Health and Welfare Canada, *Suicide in Canada: A Report of the National Task Force on Suicide in Canada*

4. Labour Force

HIGHLIGHTS

- Highest labour force participation rate in Canada.
- Increase in female labour force participation.
- Increase in part-time and temporary employment.
- Lower unemployment as the economy recovers.
- High youth unemployment.

4.1 Labour Force Participation

TRENDS

Alberta has the highest labour force participation rate in Canada. From 1976 to 1986, the rate of participation in the Alberta labour force increased from 67.4% to 72.1%. After declining from 57.5% in 1921 to 50.7 % in 1941, the participation rate for Albertans increased steadily, rising to 62.7% in 1971.

The structure of Alberta's labour force has also changed with the increasing participation of women in the labour force. The participation rate for women increased from 50.0% in 1976 to 62.1% in 1986. Between 1921 and 1986, the participation rate for Alberta women increased steadily from 13.2% to 62.1%. The rate for men fluctuated, declining from 90.2% to 82.1% during the same period.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 4.1a
Labour Force Participation Rates, Alberta and Canada, 1976-1987

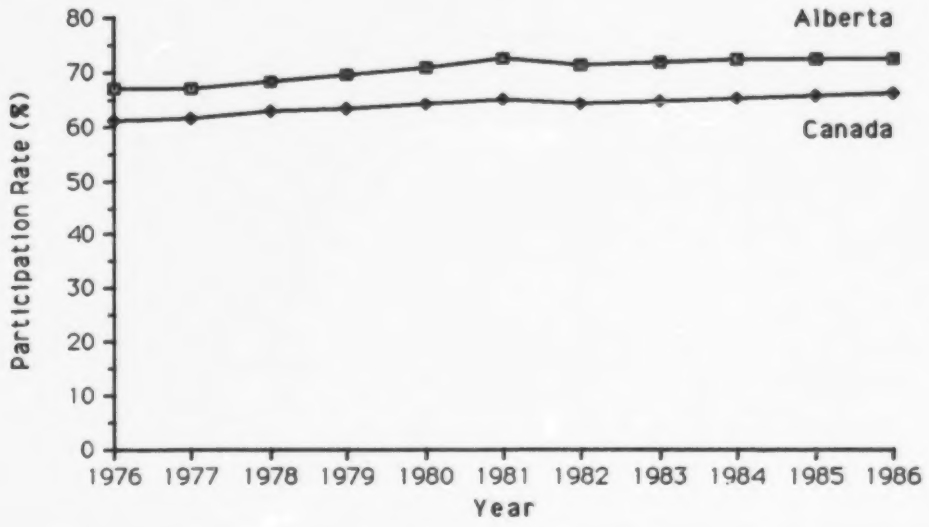
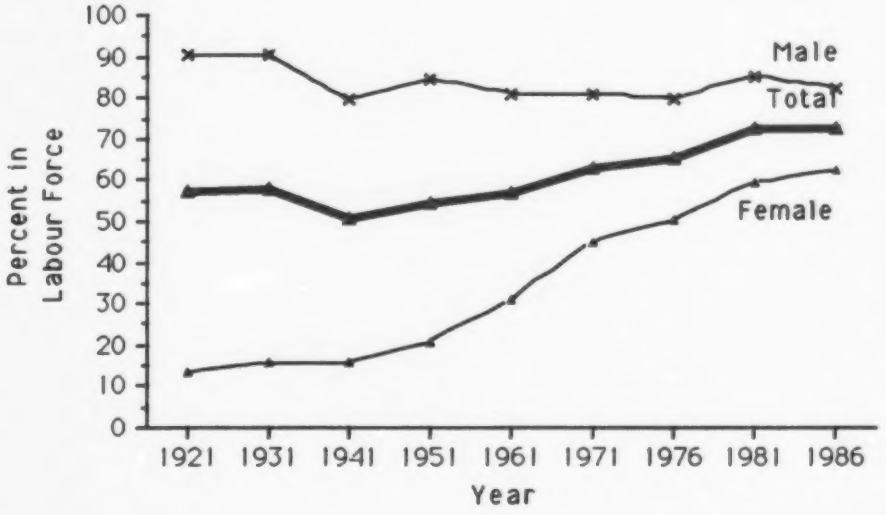


Figure 4.1b
Male and Female Labour Force Participation Rates, Alberta, 1921-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, *Historical Labour Force Statistics*, Catalogue No. 71-201

4.2 Labour Force Participation by Marital Status and Sex

TRENDS

Except for married males, the percentage of all Albertans working has increased for every marital status. The most dramatic increase has been for married women.

Between 1951 and 1986, the participation rates for single male and female Albertans in Alberta fluctuated, rising slightly from 76.1% to 77.1% for males, and 53.2% to 70% for females, while the participation rate for married males declined from 90.1% to 86.4%, the rate of increase for married females was the most dramatic, from 9.9% to 63.3%.

The participation rates for both widowed, and divorced male and female Albertans have also increased since 1951.

The percentage of widowed and divorced men working in Alberta increased from 49.6% in 1951 to 69.6% in 1986. The participation rate for widowed and divorced women also increased, from 23% to 42.6% during the same period.

Husbands with children at home, wives without children at home and female lone parents have the highest labour force participation rates.

In 1976, 92.5% of the 272,495 husbands with children at home were in the labour force, as compared to 71% of the 135,345 husbands without children at home. By 1981, the proportion of husbands with children at home that were working increased to 95.6%, of the 323,095 as compared to 76.5% of the 185,635 husbands without children at home.

In absolute numbers, there are more married mothers working than wives who are not mothers. However, proportionately more wives without children work than wives with children.

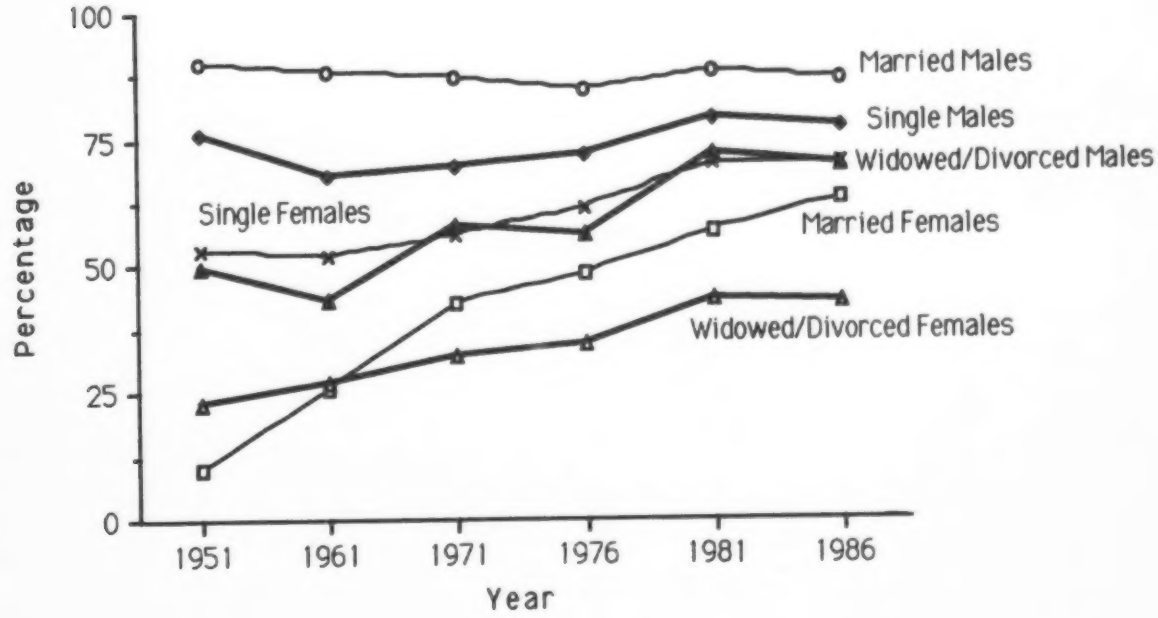
Of the 135,345 wives without children in 1976, 51.0% were working as compared to 59.1% of the 185,635 in 1981. But of the 272,495 wives with children in 1976, 49.2% were working as compared to 54.2% of 323,095 in 1981.

In absolute numbers, there are more female lone parents working than male lone parents, although the proportion of male lone parents in labour force is greater than the female proportion.

In 1976, 57.2% of the 34,710 female single parents were in the labour force as compared to 80.1% of the 6,460 male lone parents. By 1986, 67.2% of the 46,720 female lone parents were in the labour force as compared to 86.3% of the 10,170 male lone parents.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 4.2
Labour Force Participation Rates by Marital Status and Sex, Alberta, 1951-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986 Census of Canada

4.3 Part-time Employment

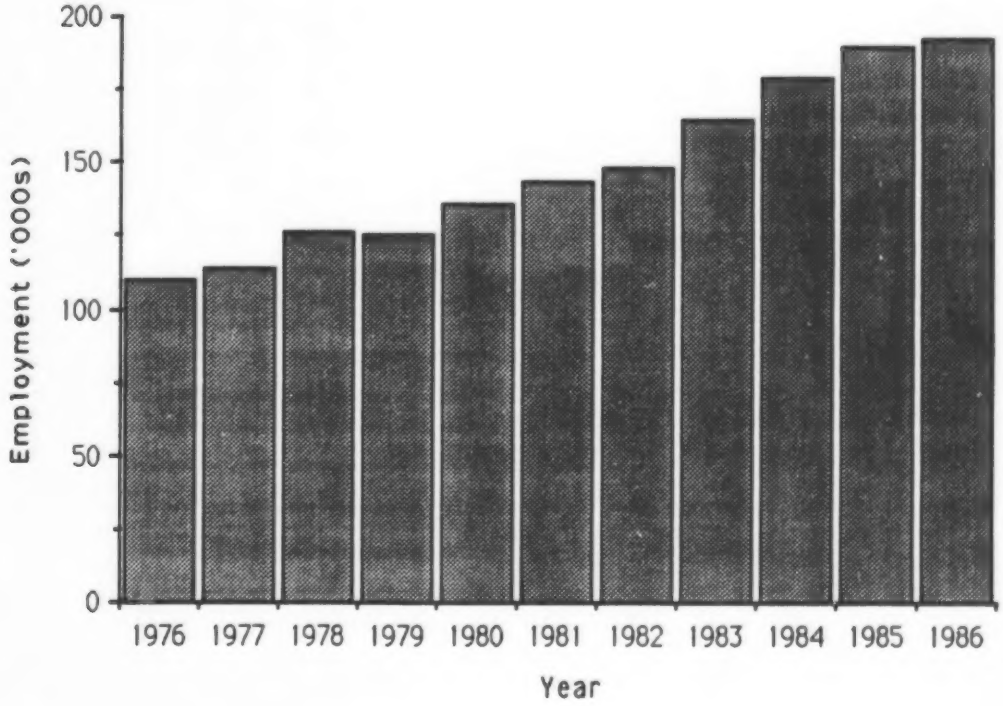
TRENDS

There has been a sharp increase in part-time and temporary employment relative to full-time employment. Women account for over 70 percent of part-time workers in Alberta.

Between 1975 and 1986, part-time employment increased from 12.3 % to 16.8% of total employment. Approximately 88% of part-time employment is in the service sector industry. Women account for over 70% of all part-time workers in Alberta.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 4.3
Part-Time Employment
in Alberta, 1976-1986



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Annual Averages, Catalogue No. 71-529., The Labour Force, No. 71-001 (Monthly).

4.4 Unemployment

TRENDS

Unemployment increased significantly since 1981 but as the economy recovers , unemployment in Alberta has started to decrease.

During the economic boom times in Alberta in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the unemployment rate ranged from a low of 3.8% in 1981 to a high of 4.7% in 1978. After the boom, the unemployment rate started to rise, reaching a record high of 11.2% in 1984. As the economy recovers, unemployment declined to 8% in 1988.

Youth unemployment remains higher than the provincial rate, and youth will continue to have a 4 to 5 percentage points higher rate of unemployment.

Between 1980 and 1988, the unemployment rate for Albertans aged 15-24 years increased from 6.5% to 12.5%. The unemployment rate is particularly higher among the 15-19 age group. In 1988, the unemployment rate for Albertans aged 15-19 years was 13.5%, as compared to 11.8% for population 20-24.

As one's level of education increases, so does the probability of being employed.

Using labour force data for March 1987, Statistics Canada figures indicate that, for all age groups in Alberta, the unemployment rate for university graduates was 3.6%. For Albertans with a post-secondary certificate or diploma from institutions other than the universities, the unemployment rate was 9%; and with some post-secondary training, the rate was 10.8%. For high school graduates or Albertans with some high school education, the unemployment rate was 13.6%. The unemployment rate in Alberta for people with no more than a Grade 8 education was 15.1%.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 4.4a
Unemployment Rates,
Alberta and Canada,
1976-1988

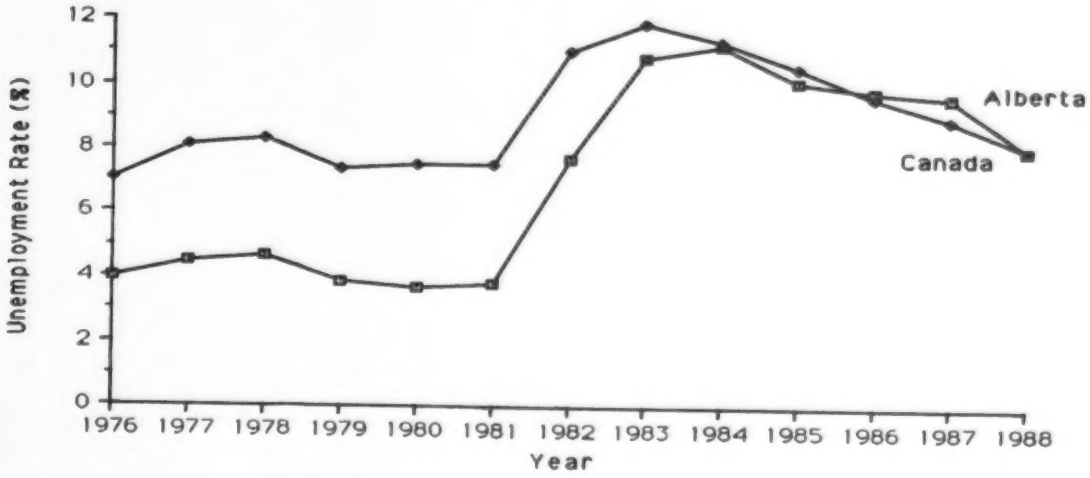
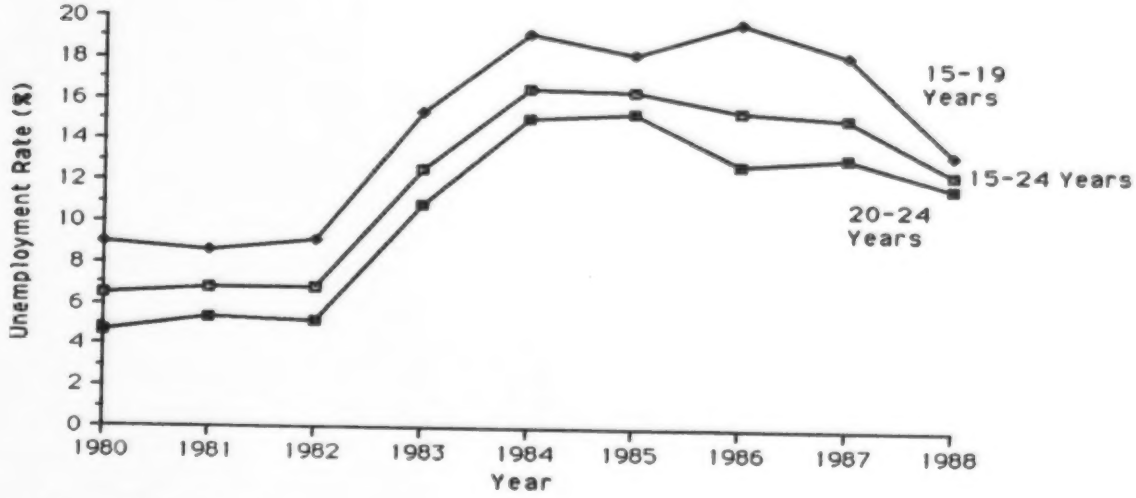


Figure 4.4b
Unemployment Rates,
Alberta Youth,
1980-1988



Source: Statistics Canada, Historical Labour Force Statistics, Catalogue No. 71-201.

TRENDS

There is growing use of computers, electronic entertainment and other information technology devices in Alberta homes and schools.

- A 1986 Alberta Education study reported 93.2% of Alberta schools have one or more microcomputers, resulting in a provincial student-computer ratio of 17:1, the lowest in Canada, and the fourth lowest in North America.
- Statistics Canada's first survey of Canadian households with home computers in 1986 reported Albertans having the largest proportion of home computers in the country - 12.2% .
- The proportions of Alberta homes with video-cassette recorders (VCR) increased from 10.6% in 1983 to 48.2% in 1987, the highest among all Canadian provinces.
- A 1986 Alberta Education Communications Corporation (ACCESS) found that 61% of full-time Alberta Correspondence School students have a VCR at home and 32% have computers.
- The percentage of Alberta homes with cable television increased from 55% in 1980 to 67.2% in 1987, equivalent to the Canadian average. As well, in 1986, 10.8% of Alberta homes had Pay Television, the second highest in the country.

The use of computer technology has also increased in Canadian industries. Between 1980 and 1985, approximately 75% of all Canadian business establishments reported the introduction of computer technology. **The growth of computer and other mass media telecommunication devices is expected to continue.** Some forecasts predict that by the year 2000-2010, a computer is likely to be found in every household in North America. It is also predicted that five of the ten fastest-growing careers between now and 2001 will be computer-related. **The rapid advance of computer and other information technologies has dramatically increased the quantity of data available, and increased the dependence on technology for access to information and knowledge.** Current research shows that society's knowledge base is doubling every 5.5 years, and this rate of change is expected to continue. Any by the end of this century, 85% of workers will be in the information/service sector - areas requiring lifelong learning and frequent re-education and retraining.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Figure 5.1a
Households with Home Computers, Canadian Provinces, 1986

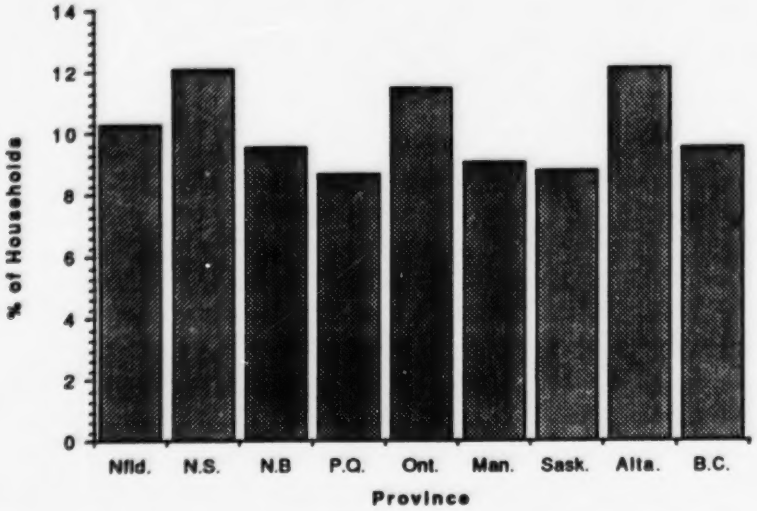


Figure 5.1b
Households with Video-cassette Recorders, Alberta and Canada, 1983-1987

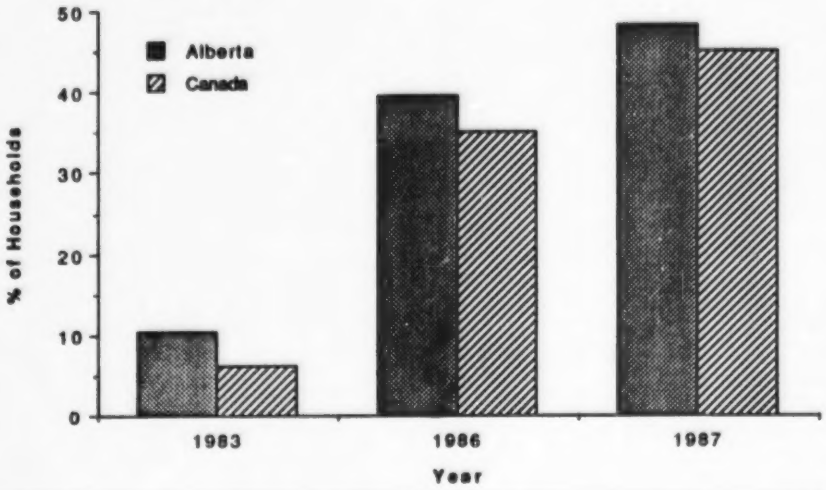
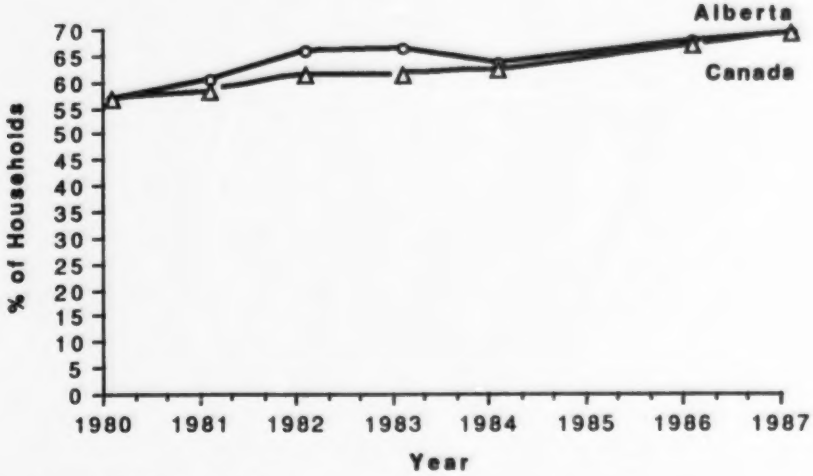


Figure 5.1c
Cable Television Penetration, Alberta and Canada, 1980-1987



Sources: Statistics Canada, *Household Facilities and Equipment*, Catalogue No. 64-202

TRENDS

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms continues to guarantee Canadians the recognition of certain rights and fundamental freedoms. Every Canadian has the following fundamental freedoms: freedom of conscience and religion; freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression; freedom of peaceful assembly; freedom of association; and fundamental rights: democratic rights; mobility rights; legal rights; equality rights; language rights; and minority language educational rights. Since 1982, the Charter has been used for nearly 2, 000 court challenges to demand rights of access to educational, language, and minority programs.

Under **Section 23 of the Charter,** francophones living in mainly English-speaking provinces have a constitutional right to have their children educated in French and to set up their own schools out of public funds, where numbers warrant.

NOTES/POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 6
Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights: Minority Language Educational Rights

23. (1) Citizens of Canada

(a) whose first language learned and still understood is that of the English or French linguistic minority population of the province in which they reside, or

(b) who have received their primary school instruction in Canada in English or French and reside in a province where the language is the language of the English or French linguistic minority population of the province, have the right to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in that language in that province.

(2) Citizens of Canada of whom any child has received or is receiving primary or secondary school instruction in English or French in Canada, have the right to have all their children receive primary and secondary instruction in the same language.

(3) The right of citizens of Canada under subsections (1) and (2) to have their children receive primary and secondary school instruction in the language of the English or French linguistic minority population of a province.

(a) applies wherever in the province the number of children of citizens who have such a right is sufficient to warrant the provision to them out of public funds of minority language instruction; and

(b) includes, where the number of those children so warrants, the right to have them receive that instruction in minority language educational facilities provided out of public funds.

Adolescent Pregnancy Rate - is based on live births and therapeutic abortions, and is exclusive of estimated 15 percent of pregnancies which end up as spontaneous abortions.

Age - refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference date). This variable is derived from the date of birth.

Age-Specific Fertility Rate - the number of births per 1,000 women in a specific age group.

Child - sons and daughters (including adopted children and step children) who have never married, regardless of age, and are living in the same dwelling as their parents. However, when comparing population profiles from 1921 or 1951 through 1986, children are defined as the single population under 15 years of age for comparison purposes.

Birth Rate - The number of live births occurring in one year per 1,000 population.

Divorce Rate - the number of divorces per 100,000 total population.

Divorced - persons who have obtained a legal divorce who have not remarried.

Ectopic pregnancy - pregnancy occurring in one of the Fallopian tubes, usually requiring surgery.

Employed (population) - those at work, or those who have a job but are not at work because of illness, disability, vacation, labour dispute, or some other reasons.

Ethnic origin - refers to the ethnic or cultural group(s) to which the respondent or respondent's ancestors belong.

Family - based on Statistics Canada Census definition: Husband and wife (with or without children who have never married regardless of age), or a lone parent of any marital status, with one or more children who have never married, regardless of age, living in the same dwelling. For census purposes, persons living in a common-law type of agreement are considered as now married, regardless of their legal marital status.

General Fertility Rate - the number of live births occurring in one year per 1,000 population of women aged 15 to 49 years.

Gonorrhea - a bacterial disease which causes urethral discharge in men. Women often do not experience overt symptoms, although gonorrhea can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and damage the reproductive organs.

Household - a person or group of persons (other than foreign residents) who occupy a dwelling and do not have a usual place of residence elsewhere in Canada. Every person is a member of one and only one household.

Immigrants - people who come to Canada from other countries.

In-migrants - are those involved in the process of in-migration.

In-migration - refers to the number of persons who move into a migration area or areas from elsewhere in the country.

Labor Force Participation Rate - Since 1961, labor force has been defined to include all persons having a job of any kind, either part or full time (even if they are not at work) or looking for work one week prior to enumeration. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the total labor force as a proportion of the adult population. The adult population was defined as 14 years of age and over prior to 1961 and 15 years of age and over since that time.

Labour Force Participation Rate - represents the labor force as a percentage of the population aged 15 and over.

Labour force population - that portion of the population that is employed or unemployed.

Life expectancy - the average number of years of life remaining to males or females at birth under a given set of mortality conditions.

Lone-parent - refers to a mother or a father, with no spouse present, living in a dwelling with one or more never-married children.

Lone-parent family - one parent, regardless of marital status, with one or more children living in the same dwelling.

Marriage Rate - the number of marriages per 1,000 total population.

Married - includes separated.
Mother tongue - refers to the first language learned in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.
Natural increase - excess of births over deaths.
Out-migrants - are those involved in out-migration.
Out-migration - refers to the number of persons who leave a migration area or areas for other areas within the country.
Part-time employment - consists of all other persons who usually work less than 30 hours per week.
Rural population - refers to persons living outside "urban areas".
Single - includes all persons 15 years of age and over are unmarried.
Total Fertility Rate - an estimate of the total number of births per 1,000 women that would occur during their lifetime if current rates remained constant throughout their childbearing years.
Unemployed (population) - those without work but available and looking for work.
Unemployment rate - represents the unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.
Unmarried women - include never-married, widowed, divorced women as well as those whose marital status is not stated.
Urban and Rural populations- Prior to 1951, the population residing within boundaries of incorporated cities, towns, and villages, regardless of size, was classified as urban. From 1951 to 1961, urban included cities, towns, and villages with populations of 1,000 or over whether incorporated or not; in 1971, the requirement was a population density of 1,000 or more per square mile was added to this definition. In 1971, urban included the population living in 1) incorporated cities, towns, and villages with a population of 1,000 or over; and 2) unincorporated places of 1,000 or over having a population density of at lease 1,000 per square mile, and built up fringes of 1) and 2). Rural included all the remaining population.
Urban population - refers to persons living in a continuously built-in area having a population concentration of 1,000 or more and a population density of 400 or more per square kilometer, based on the previous census.
Widowed - persons who have lost their spouse through death and who have not remarried.
Working-age population - the civilian non-institutional population aged 15 and over.

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